

## Democrats push ahead with short-term bill to avoid shutdown

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats controlling the House are steering clear of controversy in a short-term, government-wide spending measure that's needed to prevent a government shutdown at the end of September.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has agreed to a White House request to replenish funds for bailout payments to farmers absorbing heavy losses as a result of President Donald Trump's trade battles with China. She has also rejected suggestions from House liberals to try to use the must-pass stopgap measure to try to reverse the president's controversial moves to

raid military base construction projects to pay for the border wall,

The temporary spending bill would keep the government running through Nov. 21 and is to be released Tuesday. House and Senate votes are expected well in advance of the Sept. 30 deadline to avert a shutdown, though its release remained held up over a relatively a relatively minor but complicated set of issues.

The Senate, meanwhile, remains wrapped around the axle in its efforts to advance the 12 annual spending bills that would fill in the blanks of this summer's bipartisan budget and debt deal.

Continued on Page 4



On this Sept. 12, 2019, photo, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., speaks at the Capitol in Washington. The good news is that it doesn't look like a bitterly polarized Washington will stumble into another government shutdown.

Associated Press



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# Purdue Pharma to stay in business as bankruptcy unfolds

By MICHAEL R. SISAK  
Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) —

A judge cleared the way Tuesday for OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma to stay in business while it pursues bankruptcy protection and settlement of more than 2,600 lawsuits filed against it in a reckoning over the opioid crisis.

At the first court hearing since the Chapter 11 filing late Sunday, Purdue lawyers secured permission for the multibillion-dollar company based in Stamford, Connecticut, to maintain business as usual — paying employees and vendors, supplying pills to distributors, and keeping current on taxes and insurance.

The continued viability of Purdue is a key component of the company's settlement offer, which could be worth up to \$12 billion over time.

Under the proposal, backed by about half the states, the Sackler family, which owns Purdue, would turn the company, its assets and more than \$1 billion in cash reserves over to a trust controlled by the very enti-



In this April 2, 2018, file photo, a pharmacist in San Francisco poses for photos holding a bottle of OxyContin.

ties suing it.

The Sacklers have also agreed to pay a minimum of \$3 billion of their own money to the settlement over seven years, as well

as up to \$1.5 billion more in proceeds from the planned sale of their non-U.S. pharmaceutical companies.

"This is a highly unusual case in that the debtors have pledged to turn over their business to the claimants," U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain said. "All of the claimants, in essence, have the same interest in maximizing the value of the business and avoiding immediate and irreparable harm."

Joe Rice, a lawyer for some of the plaintiffs, estimated it could be more than a year before the bankruptcy and settlement are finalized.

"This is not a sprint. We've got a little bit of a marathon here," he said after the three-hour hearing in New York City's northern suburbs. Purdue's bankruptcy filing has effectively frozen all litigation against the company, which its lawyers said

has been spending more than \$250 million a year on legal and professional fees, but it has not stopped lawsuits against the Sacklers from moving forward.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who is suing the Sacklers and opposes the proposed settlement, said last week that her office found that members of the family used Swiss and other accounts to transfer \$1 billion to themselves.

Purdue lawyer Marshall Huebner said he hoped states that are opposed to the proposed settlement could be persuaded to change their positions.

"It is, in essence, America itself that stands to benefit or lose from the success or failure of these reorganization proceedings," Huebner said.

None of the Sacklers attended the hearing, but the family name did come

up several times as Purdue lawyers declared that they wouldn't benefit from any steps taken Tuesday to keep the company in business.

As the bankruptcy unfolds, Purdue will continue to pay its approximately 700 employees under preexisting salary structures.

No member of the Sackler family is an employee and none will receive payments, Purdue lawyer Eli Vonnegut said.

Because of commitments Purdue made before the bankruptcy filing, the company will pay sign-on bonuses to five employees and retention bonuses to about 100 employees. The company agreed to hold off on seeking to continue other bonus plans, such as incentive bonuses.

Drain, the judge, also allowed the company to continue covering legal fees for current and former employees, which Vonnegut estimated wouldn't exceed \$1.5 million per month. The company stopped covering legal fees for members of the family on March 1, he said. "We swear up and down that no payments will go to the Sacklers," Vonnegut said.

Purdue lawyers argued that the sign-on and retention bonuses were vital to attracting and keeping top talent in a tumultuous time for the company. Covering employee legal fees is important to morale and sends a strong signal that the company backs the people who work for it, the lawyers said. Bankruptcy trustee Paul Schwartzberg objected, saying the bonuses went "way beyond" normal compensation and were padding the pockets of employees who already make upward of \$300,000 a year. □

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# Dutch men who wanted Area 51 video get jail for trespass

By KEN RITTER

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Two Dutch tourists who told authorities they wanted to take video of Area 51 have pleaded guilty to misdemeanor trespass and illegal parking following their ar-

rests at a different secure U.S. government site in Nevada. A judge on Monday sentenced Govert Sweep, 21, and Ties Granzier, 20, to 10 days in county jail, but said they can be released in three days if they pay fines of \$2,280 apiece. The men also surrendered computer and camera equipment and an aerial drone that their attorneys, Adam Solinger and Michael Becker in Las Vegas, valued at about \$10,000. "This is all about deterrence because of 'Storm Area 51,'" Solinger said Tuesday of the sentences. His clients had planned to post video on the internet

ahead of events this week stemming from an internet hoax inviting people to a remote once-secret U.S. Air Force test site more than 20 miles (32.2 kilometers) from where Sweep and Granzier were arrested.

10 in a car inside a site gate near Mercury. The security site covers an area almost the size of the U.S. state of Rhode Island. It is separate but adjacent to the Nevada Test and Training Range, an area al-

most twice the size of Delaware where the Air Force conducts training in aerial combat and bombing and tests stealth aircraft. Access to Area 51 is prohibited. In a Nye County sheriff's office video news release

, Sweep and Granzier say they'll return to the Netherlands after their expected release Thursday. "We didn't want to cause any trouble," Granzier said. "It has all gone a little out of hand." □



This image taken from video posted by the Nye County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, shows a recorded police interview with Dutch tourists Ties Granzier, left, and Govert Sweep, in the Nye County Jail in Pahrump, Nev.

Associated Press

rests at a different secure U.S. government site in Nevada. A judge on Monday sentenced Govert Sweep, 21, and Ties Granzier, 20, to 10 days in county jail, but said they can be released in three days if they pay fines of \$2,280 apiece. The men also surrendered computer and camera equipment and an aerial drone that their attorneys, Adam Solinger and Michael Becker in Las Vegas, valued at about \$10,000. "This is all about deterrence because of 'Storm Area 51,'" Solinger said Tuesday of the sentences. His clients had planned to post video on the internet

An unknown number of people are expected at events now planned in the tiny Nevada desert towns of Rachel and Hiko, and the originator of the internet hoax plans to host an event in downtown Las Vegas. Nye County prosecutor Chris Arabia said Sweep and Granzier could face a more serious conspiracy charge if they are found again at the Nevada National Security Site — a vast posted and patrolled area about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northwest of Las Vegas where the government conducted nuclear weapons tests from 1945 to 1992. The two were arrested Sept.

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# Continued from Front

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has set up a procedural vote for Wednesday on a huge measure to fund the Pentagon, foreign aid, and domestic agencies like the energy and education departments, but Democrats appear likely to filibuster the measure to protest what they say is a raid on health and education programs to pay for more border wall projects. Next steps are unclear at best, and fears are growing that most of the government, including the Defense Department, will have to run on autopilot at current funding levels.

"Of course Democrats oppose taking funds from Congress for our military to use on the president's border wall. Everyone knows that," Schumer said Tuesday. "McConnell has been accusing Democrats of threatening to block military funding because we don't want to pass a bill that steals money from the military."

The maneuvering highlights the precarious nature of the summer's bipartisan budget pact, which combined a two-year increase in the national debt with a set of new spending "caps" to prevent the return of automatic, across-the-board spending cuts to both the Pentagon and domestic federal agencies.

In that agreement, both sides promised to steer clear of controversial provisions that, if included in the bills, would be so politically nettlesome that they would derail the entire process. But Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., upset that education and health programs within her jurisdiction have been shortchanged and angry over a new Trump administration rule banning family planning providers that accept federal funds from counseling

women about their abortion options, threatened an amendment to reverse the administration's abortion "gag rule."

McConnell said Murray's amendment — it would have likely passed the Appropriations Committee over opposition from GOP conservatives and the president — would violate the agreement to avoid politically toxic "poison pills," and the typically bipartisan appropriations process in the Senate ran aground.

A top Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said that Democrats want allocations they consider to be fairer to social programs and agreements on plotting floor consideration of legislation so they are not at a disadvantage in fighting for their priorities. "We get those things and the poison pills start drifting away," Durbin said.

The Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday did approve three bipartisan bills funding transportation and housing, the IRS and the Treasury Department, and agriculture programs. The stopgap measure to fund the government is aimed at buying time for action and negotiations on \$1.4 trillion in annual appropriations bills. Some items can't wait and will be included, like accelerated funding for the 2020 census and \$20 million to combat Ebola in Africa. Since the temporary spending bill is the only must-do legislation on the immediate horizon, lawmakers are using it as a locomotive to haul other priorities into law. That bundle of provisions, negotiated behind closed doors, offers plenty of evidence of Capitol Hill's chronic dysfunction. It's not just that the Democratic-controlled House and GOP-held Senate can't agree on big issues like infrastructure, guns and health care. They also

can't agree on lower-tier items that typically pass by wide margins, such as short-term extensions of the federal flood insurance program and the Export-Import Bank, which helps finance export deals important to large manufacturers such as The Boeing Co. The House and Senate banking committees are responsible for legislation to reauthorize both the Export-Import Bank and the flood insurance program, which is particularly important to the real estate sector in coastal areas. But there's been no progress, so temporary extensions of the two programs have been attached to the interim spending bill.

Democrats are deferring a showdown over Trump's border wall, which sparked a 35-day partial government shutdown at the turn



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined at left by Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., speaks to reporters during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

of the year. Democratic leaders opted against trying to use the bill as a way to take on Trump controversies like cutting military base projects to pay for his U.S.-Mexico border wall. But they're not granting Trump any favors, either, denying provisions such as the flexibility to build new border wall segments.

A new bipartisan report by the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations released Tuesday found that this year's shutdown and a more widespread 2013 shuttering of federal agencies cost taxpayers about \$4 billion, mostly for back pay for workers who did not work during the shutdowns. □



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## APNewsBreak: Army revamps recruiting, hits enlistment goal

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year after failing to meet its enlistment goal for the first time in 13 years, the U.S. Army is now on track to meet a lower 2019 target after revamping its recruitment effort.

Army leaders tell The Associated Press that they expect to sign up more than 68,000 active duty soldiers for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, as the largest branch of the U.S. military increasingly turns to social media and other new online methods to find potential recruits.

Last year, the Army brought in about 70,000 new active duty recruits, well below the 76,500 it needed amid low unemployment and tough competition from higher-paying civilian companies. Meeting the lower 2019 figure is considered a victory for a service that has struggled to compete for young people who are less familiar with the military and that was criticized last year for using more bad conduct waivers and other waivers to meet enlistment goals.

"We're smoothing out the Army's growth," Gen. James McConville, chief of staff of the Army, said in an AP interview. "What we want to do is have modest growth over the next couple of years. And we're trying to make sure that the end strength we have is high quality."

Army leaders dispute the idea that they lowered the

goal to help meet expectations. Instead, they said they plan to gradually grow the Army from 476,000 members last year to about 490,000 by 2024, seeking more high-quality recruits who will be less likely to fail or get injured in early training.

McConville and Army acting Secretary Ryan McCarthy said that it took time to institute changes in the recruiting over the past year but that the shifts have started to show promise. Already recruiters have an additional 13,000 recruits under contract to join the service in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, giving them a jump on next year's totals.

They said the recruiting goal for next year will be between 68,000 and 69,000.

After a massive buildup to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army in recent years slashed more than 50,000 soldiers as those conflicts scaled back. Now, to meet military demands, the Army needs to grow again.

But in the effort to enlist more soldiers, Army leaders faced criticism, including from Congress, over the expanded use of waivers for recruits with previous marijuana use, bad conduct and health problems.

The use of waivers triggered worries that the service would repeat mistakes made during the war build-



In this June 4, 2017, file photo, nNew Army recruits take part in a swearing in ceremony before a baseball game between the San Diego Padres and the Colorado Rockies in San Diego.

Associated Press

up when recruiters brought in more youth with histories of misconduct, drugs and crime, which led to discipline and behavior problems in the units.

Now Army leaders say they have reduced waivers and improved the quality of recruits.

Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, head of Army Recruiting Command, said there were 3.4% fewer waivers this year and that includes the lowest percentage of conduct waivers in two decades. He said that about 12% of the recruits in 2019 needed a waiver to get in, and less than 9 percent this year needed one.

To meet the recruiting goal

while limiting waivers and raising standards, the Army increased the number of recruiters and targeted 22 cities that had historically been challenging areas. And, Muth said, "we have changed from the industrial age into the digital age in how we're recruiting." Historically, the top method of getting recruits has been in person. But young people are now more interested in connecting online than face to face.

As a result, Muth said, "the numbers point to the fact that for the first time the paradigm shift is about to occur and our No. 1 prospecting and lead genera-

tion for next year is going to be the in the virtual recruiting station."

For example, he said, a traditionally top recruiting event like the Houston rodeo would generate about 350 leads for recruiters to follow up. At the Salt Lake City gaming tournament last July recruiters got about 1,400 leads over one weekend, he said.

Two years ago, McCarthy said, the Army spent half of its marketing budget on television ads and half on digital ads. Now, he said, 90 percent is on digital.

"We're embracing the digital age," he said, adding that officials are learning as they go along. □



# Trump's Cabinet has had more ex-lobbyists than Obama or Bush

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In less than three years, President Donald Trump has named more former lobbyists to Cabinet-level posts than his most recent predecessors did in eight, putting a substantial amount of oversight in the hands of people with ties to the industries they're regulating.

The Cabinet choices are another sign that Trump's populist pledge to "drain the swamp" is a catchy campaign slogan but not a serious attempt to change the way Washington works. Instead of staring down "the unholy alliance of lobbyists and donors and special interests" as Trump recently declared, the influence industry has flourished during his administration.

The amount spent in 2019 on lobbying the U.S. government is on pace to match or exceed last year's total of \$3.4 billion, the most since 2010, according to the political money website Open Secrets. Trump also has pulled in hefty contributions from industries with business before his administration, and his hotel near the White House has been a magnet for lobbyists and foreign interests since he was elected.

"An administration staffed by former industry lobbyists will almost certainly favor industry over the general public, because that's the outlook they're bringing to the job," said Lee Drutman, a senior fellow in the political reform program at the think tank New America and author of the book "The Business of America is Lobbying."

Former lobbyists run the Defense and Interior departments, Environmental Protection Agency and office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The acting La-

bor secretary, Pat Pizzella, is an ex-lobbyist and Trump's pick to run the department, Eugene Scalia, also is an ex-lobbyist. Scalia's con-

posed to register. Shortly after taking office, Trump signed an executive order that revoked an Obama directive prohibit-

partner in the Washington office of the Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher firm, where he ran up a string of victories in court cases on behalf

duct or wrongdoing.

Obama chose Pizzella for a GOP seat on the Federal Labor Relations Authority and he was an assistant Labor secretary during the George W. Bush administration.

Two Trump Cabinet officials, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler, have been accused by congressional Democrats and public interest groups of failing to honor their ethics pledges. Both Bernhardt and Wheeler, backed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have played leading roles in the administration's rollback of environmental regulations. They also both worked at the agency they now lead during prior administrations.

Interior's inspector general launched an investigation of Bernhardt earlier this year after receiving seven separate ethics allegations against him. A complaint filed by the nonprofit Campaign Legal Center alleged that shortly after joining the department in August 2017 Bernhardt became involved in matters that were the focus of his lobbying for California's Westlands Water District that lasted until mid-November 2016.

Westlands has federal contracts to provide irrigation water to 700 family-owned farms in the fertile San Joaquin Valley. The complaint said Bernhardt had "lobbied on discrete provisions of a law directing Interior to maximize water supplies to his clients, and to minimize Endangered Species Act protections in that region." Then, after joining Interior, Bernhardt breached his ethics pledge by directing government officials under him "to advance the particular matters he had previously lobbied on," according to the complaint.

"It is very hard to tell where Bernhardt's lobbying career ended and where his public service begins," said Brendan Fischer, director of the Campaign Legal Center's federal reform program. □



In this July 8, 2019, file photo President Donald Trump listens as then-Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt speaks during an event on the environment in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

firmation hearing before a GOP-controlled Senate committee is scheduled for Thursday and Democrats are expected to grill him on his long record of opposing federal regulations.

A seventh ex-lobbyist, Dan Coats, resigned as Trump's intelligence chief in August. President Barack Obama had five former lobbyists in his Cabinet during two terms in office and President George W. Bush had three, also during eight years in the White House, according to lobbying and foreign agent disclosure records. The review was limited to the Trump, Obama and Bush administrations because prior to 1995 there was no central database of federal lobbying registrations and the law was hazy about who was sup-

ing lobbyists from being appointed to a post at a federal agency they'd lobbied within the last two years. While this "cooling off" period was cast aside, Trump's order continued to bar for two years lobbyists-turned-government-employees from participating in particular matters that they'd lobbied on during the two preceding years.

"Without the cooling off period, these Cabinet heads appear to be serving their former employers' and clients' special interests," said Virginia Canter, chief ethics counsel of the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's Cabinet includes the heads of the 15 executive departments and seven other senior-level posts, such as EPA administrator and director of national intelligence. Obama's Cabinet had the same number of members and Bush's Cabinet had two fewer. Scalia, the Labor Department nominee, has spent much of his career as a

of business interests challenging labor and financial regulations. Scalia, the son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, served for a year as the Labor Department's top lawyer during the George W. Bush administration.

His financial disclosure report lists 49 clients who paid him \$5,000 or more for legal services, including e-cigarette giant Juul Labs, Facebook, Walmart and Bank of America. Disclosure records show Scalia was registered in 2010 and 2011 to lobby for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Pizzella has been the acting secretary since Alexander Acosta resigned the post in July amid renewed criticism of how, as a federal prosecutor, he handled a 2008 secret plea deal with wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Pizzella lobbied for clients that ranged from Microsoft Corp. to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. He also worked on several accounts with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, although Pizzella was never accused of any miscon-

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## 'Bridgegate' asking Supreme Court to toss case

By DAVID PORTER

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — The so-called Bridgegate fraud case was merely "bare-knuckle New Jersey politics," attorneys wrote Tuesday in a filing to the U.S. Supreme Court as two one-time allies of former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie seek to overturn their convictions.

Bill Baroni and Bridget Kelly, once Christie's close associates, have accused the government of overreaching in charging them with

wire fraud and federal program fraud for realigning lanes at the busy George Washington Bridge into New York in 2013, ostensibly for a traffic study.

The true reason, prosecutors contended at their 2016 trial, was to create gridlock in the town of Fort Lee to punish its Democratic mayor for not endorsing the reelection of Christie, a Republican.

Even if that were true, Baroni attorney Michael Levy argued, criminalizing public

officials for acting without revealing an ulterior political motive would give prosecutors free rein "to charge and convict officials for all manner of political deals, favors, and rebukes, unless those officials are brutally candid about their true political motivations."

"Bridge gate is a case of bare-knuckle New Jersey politics, not graft," Levy wrote.

The government has until Nov. 22 to file its brief, and the Supreme Court is ex-



In this Jan. 11, 2014 file photo, traffic crosses the George Washington Bridge, in Fort Lee, N.J. Convicts in Associated Press

pected to hear oral arguments in January.

Baroni was the Christie-appointed deputy executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the

bridge. Kelly was Christie's deputy chief of staff and authored the infamous "time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee" email a month before the lane realignment began. □

## U.S. court: Media should be able to hear Arizona executions

By JONATHAN J. COOPER

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Journalists are entitled to hear and not just see the entire process of executing condemned inmates in Arizona, a U.S. appeals court said Tuesday in a ruling that criticized Arizona's "checkered past with executions."

In the case stemming from what a lawyer called a botched execution, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also ruled that the media and death-row inmates are not entitled to information about the origins of execution drugs or the qualifications of executioners.

The case challenges procedures created after the 2014 execution of Joseph

Wood, who was given 15 doses of a lethal two-drug combination and repeatedly gasped and snorted during a two-hour ordeal.

The case was filed by seven condemned inmates and the First Amendment Coalition of Arizona. They argued the information on drugs and executioners would help the public determine whether the death penalty is carried out humanely.

The state's procedures currently allow journalists, lawyers and family members to witness executions, first on a video monitor while the inmate is strapped to a table and an intravenous line is inserted, then through a window as drugs are ad-



In this July 23, 2014 file photo, a fence surrounds the state prison in Florence, Ariz., where the execution of Joseph Rudolph Wood took place.

Associated Press

ministered.

A microphone is turned off after the IV line is placed, according to the ruling. The judges found that the process violates the First Amendment because it

deprives the media of access to governmental proceedings.

They were not convinced, however, that the First Amendment requires the Arizona Department of

Corrections to divulge other information about executions.

The death-row inmates and the First Amendment Coalition argued the state should be required to reveal information about the source and quality of execution drugs — including the manufacturer, supplier, lot number and expiration date — as well as the training of execution team members responsible for inserting IV lines.

"Given Arizona's checkered past with executions, we are troubled by the lack of detailed information regarding execution drugs and personnel," Judge Paul J. Watford wrote in the court's opinion. □



# High drama at UK Supreme Court in Brexit challenge case

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — The British government and its opponents faced off Tuesday at the U.K. Supreme Court in a high-stakes legal drama over Brexit that will determine whether new Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke the law by suspending Parliament at a crucial time ahead of Britain's impending departure from the European Union.

As pro-EU and pro-Brexit protesters exchanged shouts outside the court building on London's Parliament Square, the government's opponents argued that Johnson illegally shut down Parliament just weeks before the country is due to leave the 28-nation bloc for the "improper purpose" of dodging lawmakers' scrutiny of his Brexit plans. They also accused Johnson of misleading Queen Elizabeth II, whose formal approval was needed to suspend the legislature. The government countered that, under Britain's largely unwritten constitution, the suspension was a matter for politicians, not the courts.



Protesters hold banners outside the Supreme Court in London, Tuesday Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

Government lawyer Richard Keen said judges in a lower court had "nakedly entered the political arena" by ruling on the matter.

"The court is not equipped to decide what is a legitimate political consideration," he said.

Johnson sent lawmakers home on Sept. 9 until Oct. 14, which is barely two weeks before the sched-

uled Oct. 31 Brexit day. A ruling against the government by the country's top court could force him to recall Parliament.

Johnson hasn't said what he will do if the judges rule the suspension illegal. He told the BBC on Monday he would "wait and see what they say."

Keen promised that "the prime minister will take any

necessary steps to comply with any declaration made by the court." But he had no answer when judges asked if Johnson might recall Parliament on the court's order, only to suspend it again.

"I'm not in a position to comment on that," he said. The prime minister says Britain must leave the EU at the end of next month with or without a divorce deal. But many U.K. lawmakers believe a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating and socially destabilizing, and are determined to thwart him.

Lawyer David Pannick, who represents one of the campaigners challenging the government, told 11 Supreme Court judges that Johnson had improperly suspended the legislature "to silence Parliament ... because he sees Parliament as an obstacle to the furtherance of his political aims."

Johnson says the suspension is routine, and will allow his government to launch its domestic agenda with a new session of Parliament. But the decision outraged many lawmakers, who say it's designed to prevent them from challenging Johnson's push for Brexit in October "do or die."

The suspension sparked legal challenges, to which lower courts have given contradictory rulings. Eng-

land's High Court said the move was a political rather than legal matter, but Scottish court judges ruled last week that Johnson acted illegally "to avoid democratic scrutiny."

The Supreme Court is being asked to decide who was right, in a case scheduled to last up to three days. It is considering two questions: Is this a matter for the courts; and, if so, did the government break the law?

The government denies misconduct. Its lawyers argued in a written submission that the issue is "intrinsicly one of high policy and politics, not law."

Keen, acting for the government, told the court that the Scottish judges "have simply gone where the court should not go."

Keen insisted there was nothing improper in the government's behavior. He said there were previous cases of British governments suspending Parliament "for political reasons" and for "extensive periods of time."

But Pannick, attorney for transparency advocate Gina Miller, told the court it was a fundamental constitutional principle that "Parliament is sovereign and the executive is accountable to Parliament."

He said the five-week suspension of Parliament was the longest for decades, and called it "remarkable" that the prime minister had not submitted a witness statement to the court outlining his reasons. He said, in the absence of a sworn statement, "we say the court should infer that there is no answer" to the allegation that Johnson acted improperly.

Pannick, however, stressed that he wasn't criticizing Britain's 93-year-old monarch in the case. "Her majesty acted on the advice of her prime minister," he said.

The case is the latest twist in a Brexit saga that has divided British politicians and the public for more than three years, since the country narrowly voted in 2016 to leave the EU. □

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## Mediterranean migrant rescues, deaths; French camp emptied

By RENATA BRITO  
Associated Press

**ABOARD THE OCEAN VIKING (AP)** — At least two people died and 14 were missing Tuesday after a boat filled with people hoping to reach Europe capsized near Tunisia.

Elsewhere in the Mediterranean, a rescue ship picked up 109 people from two flimsy boats off the coast of Libya within hours of each other. And in northern France, police cleared a gym and makeshift tent camp filled with migrants waiting to go to Britain.

The number of people seeking international protection in 30 European countries rose by a monthly 26% in July, according to figures Tuesday from the European Union's asylum office. The European total for the year so far is about 400,500, higher than the same period last year but still much lower than the levels recorded in 2015-2016, when well over 1 million migrants entered Europe, most of them fleeing conflict in Syria and Iraq.



Women and children sit on a rescue boat some 53 nautical miles (98 kilometers) from the coast of Libya in the Mediterranean Sea, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

The latest migrant deaths in the Mediterranean occurred off the Tunisian coastal city of Sfax. Tunisia's national guard spokesman, Houssameddine Jbabli, told The Associated Press that authorities rescued nine people from a boat Tuesday, recovered two bodies, and were search-

ing for the 14 missing passengers.

He said Tunisian coast guard patrols have detained 192 people and stopped 10 boats bound for Europe over the last two days. All those detained are Tunisian, except for three Iraqis.

The stepped-up efforts

against illegal migration came as Tunisia mobilized more than 100,000 security agents around the country for Sunday's presidential election.

Many migrants launch off the coast of Tunisia and neighboring Libya, usually in boats too flimsy for the journey.

With Europe's policy toward migrants in flux, the Ocean Viking went out for another search and rescue mission off Libya after disembarking 82 people on the small Italian island of Lampedusa. On Tuesday, less than 24 hours after setting sail, the crew of the humanitarian rescue ship spotted a small wooden boat with 48 people on board. Among the passengers were five women and nine children, including a newborn.

Within hours, a spotter plane alerted them to a second boat, this one made of blue plastic, with a total of 61 people on board. The Ocean Viking has a capacity of about 300.

North Africa is both a source of migrants and a transit point for other migrants seeking to reach Europe. Once there, their future is uncertain as governments argue over how to handle the newcomers. Many hoping to move northward from Italy and Spain end up in tents, makeshift lean-tos or shelters. □

## Renzi splits Italy's Democrats, shaking govt coalition

**ROME (AP)** — Former Italian Premier Matteo Renzi has left the ruling Democratic Party to set up a new centrist force, in a risky move that further weakens the already shaky government forged only two weeks ago by the center-left Democrats and the populist 5-Star Movement.

Renzi announced his departure with a Facebook post on Tuesday morning, after explaining the abrupt move in an interview with the Italian daily La Repubblica.

"I have decided to leave the PD (Democrats) and to

build together with others a new house to do politics differently," he wrote on Facebook.

The former premier has recently regained a central role in Italian politics, using his influence in parliament to push for the coalition deal between the Democrats and their former arch-enemies, the 5-Stars, in a last-ditch attempt to avert an early election and the likely triumph of Matteo Salvini's right-wing League party.

Political analysts say Renzi's U-turn has caught his enemies off guard, but is un-



A graffiti by Italian street artist TvBoy shows from left former Premier Matteo Renzi, Democratic Party leader Nicola Zingaretti, Premier Giuseppe Conte, and 5-Star Movement's Luigi Di Maio, in Rome, Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

likely to boost his very low popularity ratings.

"Around 30-32 lawmakers from both the lower house and the Senate are expected to join Renzi's new political party. Without the support of these lawmakers, it would be nearly impossible for Giuseppe Conte's government to control a majority in both houses," said Wolfgang Piccoli, head of London-based research firm Teneo. "Renzi's past record of political double-dealing casts a large shadow on his claim that his new party will strengthen the government," Piccoli said. □



# Authorities: Separate attacks in Afghanistan kill 48

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — Separate attacks by suicide bombers — one targeting President Ashraf Ghani's election rally and a second that ripped through the center of the Afghan capital — killed at least 48 people and wounded scores more Tuesday in the deadliest single day since a peace agreement with Taliban insurgents was declared dead.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for both blasts, saying an explosives-laden motorcycle targeted Ghani's election rally being held on the outskirts of Charakar in northern Parwan province. Ghani was present but unhurt, his campaign chief said. In that explosion, 26 people were killed, according to Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the Interior Ministry. Four among the dead were Afghan military personnel, he said. Another 42 people were wounded, many of them women and children. In the second bombing, just hours later in the heart of Kabul not far from the U.S. Embassy, the Taliban said they were targeting an Afghan army base. They killed 22 people, government officials said. Scores



Afghan police inspect the site of a suicide attack, in Parwan province of Afghanistan, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

more were wounded. The violence comes as Afghanistan faces presidential elections on Sept. 28 — a vote the Taliban vehemently oppose. The insurgent group has warned Afghans not to vote in the election and said their fighters would target election campaigns as well as polling stations. The bomber who attacked Ghani's rally detonated his

explosives at the entrance to the rally, according to Hamed Aziz, a spokesman for Ghani's campaign office. But Aziz said the explosion occurred some distance from where Ghani was addressing a crowd of about 2,200. Ghani condemned both attacks. "By continuing their crimes, the Taliban have once again proven that they

have no will and desire for peace and stability in Afghanistan and that all their movements are nothing but deceit," Ghani was quoted as saying in a statement released by the presidential palace. There were many women and children among the casualties in the bombing near Ghani's rally, said Dr. Qasim Sangin, a local official.

Local television footage of the attack showed twisted wreckage and charred remains of military and police vehicles that were apparently positioned near where the powerful blast Firdaus Faramarz, spokesman for the Kabul police chief, said the attack in the heart of the Afghan capital took place near Massood Square, a deeply congested intersection in the center of Kabul. NATO and U.S. compounds are located nearby as are several Afghan government ministries. Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, released a statement to the media saying Taliban suicide bombers were behind both attacks. In Parwan, Mujahid said the bomber targeted presidential guards who were protecting Ghani and the rally, along with other members of the security forces. Four military personnel were among the dead. Campaigning for the Afghan elections resumed last week after President Donald Trump declared that the U.S.-Taliban talks, which have been going on for months in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, are over. □

# Arrest warrant for Lebanese-American who worked for Israel

By **BASSEM MROUE**  
Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — A Lebanese judge issued an arrest warrant Tuesday for a Lebanese American who confessed he'd worked for Israel during its occupation of Lebanon for nearly two decades, Lebanese judicial officials said. The officials said acting military investigative judge Najat Abu Shakra postponed the questioning of Amer Fakhoury at the Military Court in Beirut pending permission from Lebanon's Bar Association for an American lawyer to attend. The officials said Fakhoury told the judge he wants the American lawyer to be present and since she had no permission from the Bar Association, the judge decided to postpone the



A former inmate of Khiam prison holds a placard in Arabic that reads, "no to American intervention in the Lebanese judiciary," during a sit-in near military court in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

questioning. No date has been set for the next session, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Fakhoury was detained after returning to his native Lebanon from the U.S. earlier this month. He had worked as a senior warden at the Khiam Prison in

southern Lebanon that was run by an Israeli-backed militia, known as the South Lebanon Army, until Israel ended an 18-year occupation of the area in 2000. Outside the court, scores of people gathered, including former Khiam prison detainees, some of whom demanded the death penalty for Fakhoury. "First of all we want the military court to deliver the death sentence by hanging for Amer Fakhoury and all those like him, whether they are inside Lebanon or outside, who are trying to erase their history and to return to Lebanon," said Firyal Hammoud, former inmate of Khiam prison. "We do not accept less than a public death sentence." Lebanon and Israel have been officially at war since

Israel's creation in 1948. Human rights groups have said in the past that Khiam prison was a site of torture and detention without trial before it was abandoned in 2000. Israel denies the allegations. Hundreds of former Lebanese members of the militia had fled to Israel, fearing reprisals if they remained in Lebanon. Others stayed and faced trial, receiving lenient sentences. Fakhoury was living in Dover, New Hampshire and local media reported that the family owns a restaurant there. New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu once went to their restaurant for a grape leaves-making contest and talked about their shared Lebanese heritage, according to local media. □





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# South Korea culls pigs after confirming African swine fever

By KIM TONG-HYUNG  
Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — South Korea is culling thousands of pigs after confirming African swine fever at a farm near its border with North Korea, which had an outbreak in May.

Kim Hyun-soo, South Korea's agricultural minister, said the country's first case of the highly contagious disease was confirmed Tuesday in tests on five pigs that died Monday evening at the farm in the city of Paju.

His ministry later said it was looking into a suspected second case from a farm in the nearby town of Yeoncheon, where the owner reported the death of a pig, and that test results were expected by Wednesday morning.

Officials were planning to complete by Tuesday the culling of some 4,000 pigs raised at the Paju farm and



A quarantine official wearing protective gear places a barricade as a precaution against African swine fever at a pig farm in Paju, South Korea, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

two other farms run by the same family. The government also strengthened efforts to disinfect farms and transport vehicles and or-

dered a 48-hour standstill on all pig farms, slaughterhouses and feed factories across the country to prevent the spread of the

disease, which threatens a massive industry that involves 6,000 farms raising more than 11 million pigs. African swine fever has

decimated pig herds in China and other Asian countries before reaching the Koreans. It is harmless to people but for pigs is highly contagious and fatal. There is no known cure.

"We will invest maximum effort to prevent the disease from spreading ... we believe the first week (following the outbreak) would be most dangerous," considering incubation periods, Kim said during a news conference in Sejong City.

"We will quickly complete monitoring inspections at the 6,300 farms (nation-wide) ... checking each pig to see whether it has fever or not and testing on even the slightest of symptoms," he said.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in called for fast and stern quarantine measures to prevent the disease from wreaking havoc on the pork industry, the presidential Blue House said. □

# 20 dead as truck falls off cliff in southern Philippines

Associated Press

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — Twenty villagers were killed and 14 others were injured when the truck they were riding in lost control and fell off a cliff Tuesday in a remote mountain village in the southern Philippines, police and the Red Cross said.

Provincial police chief Joel Limson said the truck was negotiating a downhill road in Tboli town in South Cotabato province when its brakes apparently failed and plummeted down a ravine, pinning 15 people

to death. Five other victims later died in hospitals, Limson said.

Police, Red Cross volunteers and villagers retrieved the 15 bodies from the wreckage at the bottom of the ravine. Some of the dead included children returning from a family reunion at a beach resort, Limson said by phone.

Red Cross leader Erwin Rommel del Carmen said several passengers survived by jumping off the wayward bus.

"Majority of the survivors jumped out of the bus as

it ran out of control. They were scattered on the mountainside," del Carmen, who was among those who retrieved the dead, said by phone.

Video posted by witnesses online showed the upland road where the accident happened has no steel or concrete railing. Below, the mangled wreckage of the truck is seen lying on its side. Deadly road accidents are common in the Philippines because of weak enforcement of traffic laws, rickety vehicles and inadequate road safety railings



In this photo provided by the Philippine Red Cross, Red Cross volunteers retrieve the bodies of victims following a road accident Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, in a remote village in the Tboli township, South Cotabato in the southern Philippines.

Associated Press



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## Brazil's environmental workers tell of decline before fires

By DIANE JEANTET

Associated Press

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — As fires burn across the Brazilian Amazon, the vast state of Amazonas has been among the hardest hit, with more than 6,600 blazes recorded in August, 2 1/2 times more than the same month a year ago.

Yet official documents seen by The Associated Press show that Brazil's government has begun legal procedures to transfer all employees out of three of the state's four federal environmental protection offices, which are in charge of defending the rainforest from deforestation, land grabbing and illegal fires.

It's part of a broader erosion of the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, known by its Portuguese initials as Ibama, whose field operations appear to have declined sharply since the early part of this year. The agency's funding for discretionary spending and enforcement operations this year faces a 24% cut, a significant blow to what two experts described as an already small budget.

The budget decrease came as part of a wider austerity push by President Jair Bolsonaro, who took office Jan. 1 and is seeking to rein in spending by Brazil's financially strapped government. But critics note that he has also complained that environmental regulations hinder development in the Amazon.

Ibama staffers say the regional offices are critical to their jobs, giving them closer knowledge of problem



In this Aug. 27, 2019 file photo, Kayapo indigenous members of PREVFOGO, a group that combats and helps to prevent fires, pause after working on the Bau indigenous reserve in Altamira in Brazil's Amazon where fires are burning.

Associated Press

areas and faster response times in the country's most extensive state, larger than Texas, California and Montana combined.

Ibama agents often plunge deep into the jungle aboard helicopters or boats, wearing bulletproof vests and carrying arms to confront illegal loggers or ranchers who cut away the forest and then set fires to clear the land.

The sharp increase in fires this year has roused global concern because the Amazon rainforest acts as a bulwark against climate change. Its lush vegetation absorbs heat-trapping carbon dioxide and the moisture given off by its trees affects rainfall patterns and climate across South America and beyond.

Bolsonaro told reporters he would attend the upcoming U.N. General Assembly in September to deliver a

speech expected to focus on the Amazon, which he says was "ignored" by previous administrations.

His administration argues that the lack of economic opportunities and cumbersome red tape in the Amazon region contributes to rampant illegal deforestation. It says the region can be protected while allowing far more development than conservationists believe is safe.

Bolsonaro has sent troops to aid in fighting the blazes and banned fires to clear land in the Amazon for 60 days.

But the president has fiercely resisted efforts to treat the Amazon as a global issue, notably clashing with French President Emmanuel Macron, who told his Brazilian counterpart during the peak of the fires: "We cannot allow you to destroy everything."

Bolsonaro has also accused non-governmental groups of inefficiency and trying to stifle Brazil's economy by preventing development in the region.

The president also is no big fan of Ibama and its enforcement actions, complaining that an "industry of fines" has slowed economic development in Latin America's largest nation.

"I will no longer allow Ibama to distribute fines right, left and center," Bolsonaro said before taking office. There is a personal edge to the issue: He was fined by the agency years ago for fishing in a protected area. Bolsonaro and Environment Minister Ricardo Salles have also talked of ending Ibama's legal authority to burn heavy equipment being used by illegal loggers. Critics say the top-level skepticism and budget cuts are having an impact

in the field. On-the-ground operations carried out by Ibama agents from January through April declined 58% from the same period last year, according to official data obtained by the Brazilian group Climate Observatory. The decline began under the previous government in 2018, when operations were down 23% but accelerated this year. Prosecutors in the northeastern state of Para, which borders Amazonas, are investigating the link between the decline in Ibama's activities and the rise in fires this year, which have broken out at a pace not seen since 2010.

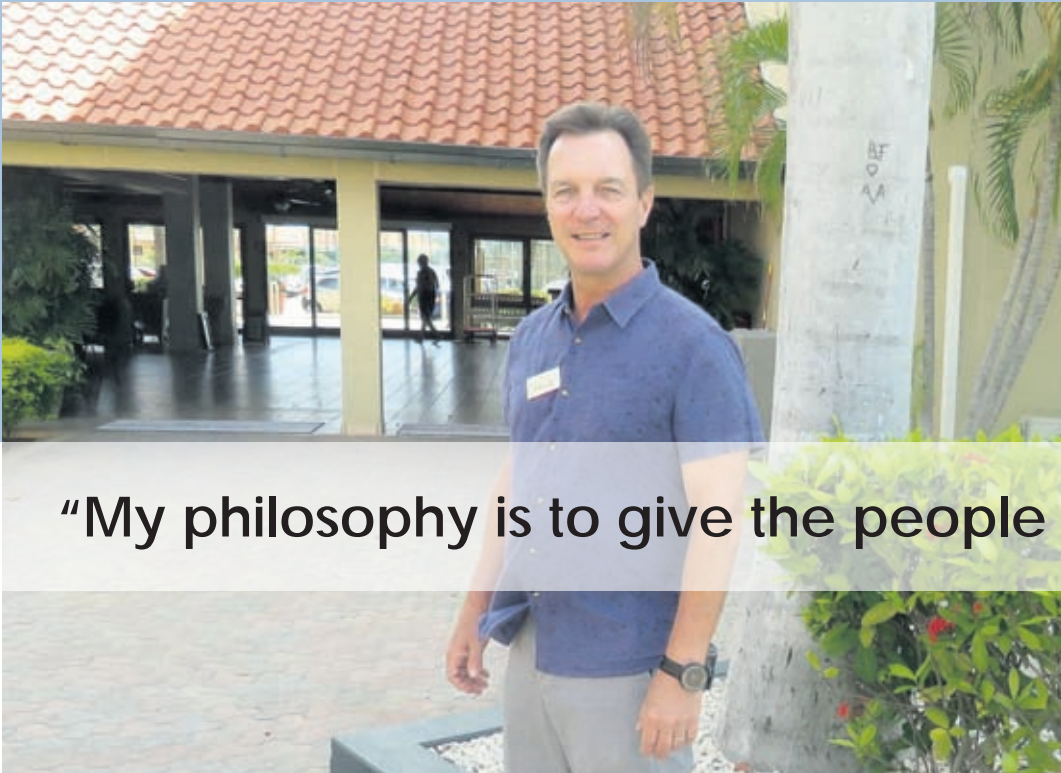
Federal prosecutor Ricardo Negrini said authorities failed to act when his office warned of reports that farmers in Para had called for "a day of fire" to ignite multiple blazes Aug. 10.

Ibama told prosecutors it wasn't able to intervene because police forces in the state had been refusing to offer security. Ibama agents have sometimes been met with gunfire when confronting illegal loggers and miners.

Negrini said he found that state police had declined to escort Ibama agents for months despite a long-standing tradition of cooperation between the two bodies. Documents seen by AP show that police forces denied six requests from Ibama in June and July.

In the documents, police say the lack of an official cooperation agreement prevented them from joining such operations, though Negrini said that had not been an issue in the past. □





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With more than 100 employees under his supervision, Curtis is assured to keep busy although it does not appear. Friendly, warm, kind and patient would best describe this GM and those characteristics fit in the atmosphere of the resort as well. Whom-ever you ask about their job, all of them talk about the connection among colleagues and members like family. What is the secret of Casa del Mar Beach Resort & Timeshare? Curtis: "I do not know if there is a secret recipe, but I do know the right people are on the right spot." He states that up to the board of directors in the U.S., it goes unspoken that people bond here. "The comments cards we get may have complaints, but never about the employees, are they not to be touched. Members even get mad when we switch housekeepers around. It is amazing how strong the connection is."

#### Strict but Fair

Curtis believes in being strict but fair, relaxed and yet driven but most of all, listening carefully. "From my start here five years ago we gradually built a team. In my opinion if you want quality you need to provide employees with quality tools and rules. It makes the job easier and shows the best result. "That was the reason he implemented the 5-days working week. "Imagine that housekeeping staff used to clean rooms six days a week and what do they do on their day off at home? Clean their house of course. So we made it work within five days without increasing costs. It required some changes, but in the long run happy employees make happy clients." He shows appreciation for his employees, also by reflecting in the activities amongst colleagues like anniversary celebrations, the Casa del Mar Week and holiday gatherings. Curtis came to Aruba in 1991 when the Sonesta Hotel was opening. "I came down on a task force as I was a financial controller in Orlando and stayed for a couple of weeks. I happened to meet my future wife here. Back in Florida they called me a couple of months later to replace the financial controller who was taken out in handcuffs by immigration and put on a plane." He explains that in those times you started working before you got your permit, companies did not have the luxury to request a permit and have the people wait overseas. "I was in the same situation and every once in a while the front desk would call me to warn immigration is here. I literally had a backdoor in my office and I needed to hide," he laughs.

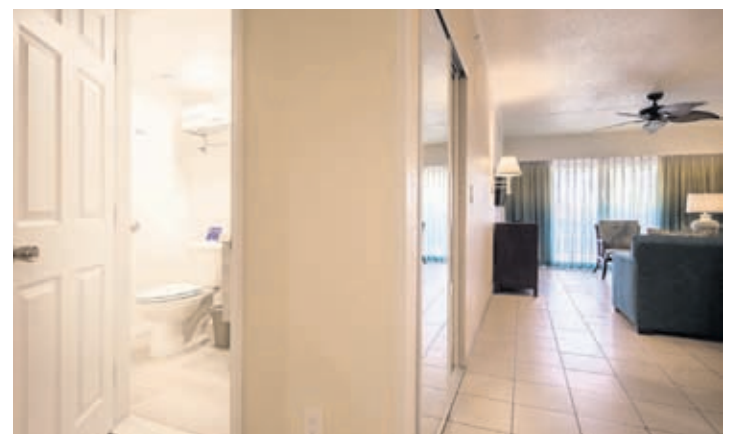
#### Goals to Get

1993 he went back to the States, got married and returned to Aruba in 1997. "22 years later I am still here." Bringing Casa del Mar forward in every sense of the word is his goal. At the moment the resort is undergoing an extensive renovation. "The building exterior is part one. It wasn't maintained properly over the last 30 years so

the panels started to rust and crack. We are fixing that completely. Inside we changed all the furniture and appliances which is part two. We do it well now, not step by step. Part three will be the bathrooms interiors." Besides the operational part, one of his listed goals is to stay connected with local community and engage the employees in that part. "We are part of the new Happy Community Initiative and we organize activities where we support employees' children with school supplies for example. We introduced him as captain of the ship but may as well call him the father of the family, because at Casa del Mar Beach Resort they are one big family. □



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## Thais Franken Obtains her Masters of Science in Maastricht



**MAASTRICHT** — On Augustus 29th 2019 Thais Franken successfully defended her thesis titled “The Road Towards an Innovative Aruba: A Q-Analysis on the Synergy Between the Creative Industry and Knowledge Economy as a Driver to Stimulate Socio-Economic Development in Aruba’s Local Innovation System” before the Graduation Committee consisting of dr. Serdar Türkeli and Mr. Otiamia Chuks. With this she obtained her double Masters of Science (MSc.) degree in Public Policy and Human Development at the University of Maastricht (UM) y the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT).

Back in 2018 Thais graduated from the Universidad di Aruba (UA) and investigated the possible socio-economic and cultural development impact of the Aruban Creative Industry. The thesis titled “Placing Culture at the Heart of Aruba’s Sustainable Development” was also successful and received the “best thesis award” for the academic year 2017-2018. In Maastricht taking into account her passion for innovation and sustainable development,



Thais decided to specialize in Innovation, Institutions and Development, and once more dedicated her thesis to her dearest island, Aruba. This time her thesis focused on the possible synergy (policy-wise) between the Aruban Creative Industry and Knowledge Economy to stimulate more innovation on the island.

Thais completed a Q-Method research study which is known as a mixed research method where simply qualitative data is quantified with the purpose of providing evidence-based recommendations for policy practice and further research. A total of 28 relevant stakeholders in Aruba representing the public sector, private sector, academia, non-government organizations (NGOs) and the community of Aruba participated in this research. From the results it can be concluded that Aruba is still not ready for a synergy between the Creative Industry and Knowledge Economy, even though theories and previous research indicate that this is the best way to stimulate innovative development in a country. However, the results also show that the stakeholders do recognize the relationship between creativity, knowledge and innovation. This means that the road towards and innovative Aruba is possible but will require concrete and inclusive evidence-based policy making. Thais concludes her report with a list of recommendations and highlights that all stakeholders need to start considering the development of both creativity (culture) and knowledge (e.g fields in science, technology, engineering and math) as complementary and important for the innovative future of Aruba.

In the end, Thais thanks everyone who participated in making her research a reality. The intention now is to share her results with the participants and the entire Aruban community. For those who are interested in the dialogue regarding innovation through creativity and knowledge can follow her column in Aruba Today called “Creative Islander” bi-weekly on Thursdays. The road towards a sustainable and innovative Aruba through this synergy is extremely important and necessary. It might be a road with challenges, but for sure not impossible. For any questions or more information regarding this research you can freely contact Thais through email: [thais.franken@gmail.com](mailto:thais.franken@gmail.com).

Aruba Today is proud of her columnist! Thais writes bi weekly on Thursday for our newspaper and how she is graduated. As we say in Papiamentu: Pabien Thais! □





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## Tierra del Sol Restaurant gets Incredible Makeover



**NOORD** — The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol will create a whole new look just for you! The restaurant will be closed for renovations which is due to be ready beginning of December. Do not worry to miss out on the delicious food though because lunch and early dinner can daily be enjoyed at the 19th Hole Bar at the pool from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

In case you are a golf fanatic, playing on Tierra del Sol's 18th hole course is a must. The ONLY 18th hole golf course on this island has a uniqueness that is the reason to visit it. Added to that is an overwhelming nature and outstanding service. There is no way you can miss out on this experience. Imagine: a drive to the North end of the island where you encounter the island's rugged north coast and Blue Ocean forming your panoramic from a masterfully sculpted 18 beautiful holes of championship golf by Robert Trent Jones II. Your play field combines the elements of wind, sea, and earth in perfect harmony. You may even encounter goats and the local burrowing owls named 'shocos'. Welcome to nature, welcome to the greatness of a new experience.

### After Game Delight

You can play your round of golf and then head to the 19th Hole bar at the pool for a nice relaxing lunch. Not a golfer? No problem.



The food at Tierra del Sol stands out and is yet a reason to hop into your car and drive to that perfect picture landscape where the chef will pamper your tasting buds.

### Testimonials

"Awesome golf course. Had a blast!!"

"Wonderful golf and you will see goats on the course. You may be fortunate and see Shoco owl. Just know it will be very very windy. ☐"

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## Scott Kelby's Worldwide Photo Walk is in Aruba



**ORANJESTAD** — Photographer Scott Kelby announces the official date of his 12th Annual Worldwide Photo Walk®, the world's largest photo walk. The event is happening October 5, 2019 in thousands of cities all over the world. Aruba is part of this event.

The Scott Kelby Worldwide Photo Walk, dubbed the world's largest

global and social photography event, has grown immensely in size and popularity since the inaugural walk in 2007. Last year, more than 24,000 photographers of all walks of life and skill level converged to explore their corners of the world through photography and social community.

The concept of a Photo Walk is sim-

ple. Photo Walks are created by Walk Leaders in cities all over the world. Walkers meet up at a pre-designated location to spend a few hours socializing, capturing images, and sharing with like-minded people. At the end of the Photo Walk, most groups convene at local restaurants or taverns to share their images and experiences over food.

### About George Vaselakos

The Walk Leader for Aruba is George Vaselakos from Chicago, USA. Again this year as he is scheduled to be in Aruba on the date of the Worldwide Photo Walk, he decided to sponsor the walk in Aruba. He is an amateur photographer, but one who loves photography immensely. So, put him in a beautiful island like Aruba, and it is a match made in heaven.

### About the Walk

The walk will take place on Sat-

urday, October 5th, 2019 from 9.00AM to 11.30AM. Meeting point will be at Starbucks, across from Seaport Casino, the walk will end at Iguana Joe's Caribbean Bar & Grill

After meeting at the Starbucks across from the Seaport Casino, we will walk to the Wilhelmina Park then back to Marina and on to the Aruba Flea Market Stalls. We will continue to the Aruba Streetcar and the shops at its start and then the shops along its route. We will end at the trolley start a block from the restaurant for lunch.

The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Register at [worldwidephotowalk.com](http://worldwidephotowalk.com), locate your city, and complete the free sign up form.

For more information please contact George at [george@georgeV-photography.com](mailto:george@georgeV-photography.com). □

## Honoring of Emerald Ambassadors at the Marriott Ocean Club



**EAGLE BEACH** — Recently, Marouska Heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba for more than 35 years consecutively.

The honorees were **James and Joanne Vilardi** from California and **John and Cheryl Campi** from New Jersey.

They all love coming to the island for its beautiful blue water beaches, perfect weather and safety of the island.

Heyliger together with the representatives of the Marriott Ocean Club presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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Today's  
Happening



## A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 18

What do you see?

- A collection of Contemporary Visual Art presented by local artists Osaira Muyale, Zoe Velvet Ramos and Irvin Aguilar
- From 7:00PM
- National Library of Aruba (George Madurostraat, Oranjestad)
- Facebook: Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

Sunday 22

Healing Drum Circle with Dr Love on Aruba

- Drumming Therapy is a method of utilizing the natural power of rhythm and sound and applying it to an individual or group for the purpose of healing. It reduces Tension, Anxiety, and Stress.
- From 6:00PM-9:00PM
- Arashi Beach, Noord
- Facebook: Qi Gong Retreats Aruba



Thursday 19

A Touch of Aruba' Show

- Enjoy the lovely sound of Sweet Pan Music and a cultural show presented by local artist Nico Connor.
- Starts at 7:30PM
- Eagle Beach, Divi Village -Seabreeze Terrace
- Facebook: Divi & Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive



Monday 23

Story Influence training 2019

- Great leaders use personal story to influence. We all need the power to influence — influence at work, at home and in social interaction. You know story has the power to persuade. But how do you use story? Storytelling is the oldest tool in our modern day communication. Ramiro Parra became a storyteller by accident. Now, he intentionally helps people create better stories so that they build a legacy that matters.
- From 6:00PM
- BAZ-RRR Galleria & Brasserie
- Facebook: BAZ-RRR Galleria & Brasserie



Friday 20

Casibari Jazz Festival Aruba 2019

- The United Nations has established "Climate Action for Peace" as the theme for this year's International Day of Peace. The theme draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world. Join us for a Peace Walk in synchronicity with Mother Nature, starting from Bushiribana Gold Smelter Ruins towards Natural Bridge and back.
- From 5:00PM-8:00PM
- Bushiribana Gold Smelter Ruins
- Facebook: jci yala - young active leaders of Aruba



Saturday 21

Climate Action for Peace Walk

- In cooperation with (and on invitation by) Prana, we invite you to join us for a mystical evening in the cave at Santo Patia, San Nicolas. Dr Love will share his Qi Dance and Drum with you. Please bring a towel, your instrument and a candle and stay after to play music and share a cup of Qi with us.
- From 6:30PM
- Grapefield Beach, San Nicolas
- Facebook: Qi Gong Aruba



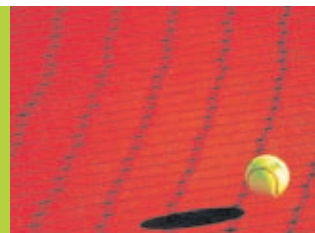
Tuesday 24

Chef's Classics at BLT Steak

- Indulge in BLT Steak' signature warm popovers, our acclaimed selection of steaks, fresh seafood, satisfying sides and delightful dessert. Enjoy an extraordinary dining experience in contemporary steakhouse fare.
- From 6:00PM
- BLT Steak at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook: The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba



# SPORTS



## Pirates closer Vázquez arrested on child sex charges

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Pittsburgh Pirates closer Felipe Vázquez was arrested Tuesday on multiple felony charges, including statutory sexual assault, soliciting a child and pornography, and was placed on administrative leave by Major League Baseball.

Vázquez was taken into custody by Pennsylvania State Police on one count of computer pornography/solicitation of a child and one count of providing obscene material to minors, both felonies, stemming from an investigation in Florida. He was later charged in Westmoreland County, which is located east of Pittsburgh, with felony counts of statutory sexual assault, unlawful contact with a minor and corruption of minors and a misdemeanor count of indecent assault of a person under 16 years old.

It was not immediately known whether the charges in Pennsylvania were related to or independent of the Florida investigation.

"We are in the process of reviewing both the Pennsylvania and Florida charging documents, as well as the underlying facts of the matter," Vázquez's lawyers, Jay Reisinger and Michael Comber, said in a statement. "At this time, any comment would be premature."

Vázquez was arraigned via video from the Allegheny County jail, wearing a dark-colored sweatshirt and glasses, according to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Continued on Page 21

## SHAKE'N BAKER



## Browns beat Jets in first win of the season, 23-3

Cleveland Browns' Baker Mayfield (6) runs away from New York Jets' Leonard Williams (92) during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Giants bench Eli Manning, name Daniel Jones starting QB

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)** — Eli Manning's long and distinguished reign as the New York Giants' starting quarterback is seemingly over. Let the Daniel Jones era begin.

Coach Pat Shurmur announced Tuesday that the No. 6 overall pick in the NFL draft is replacing two-time Super Bowl MVP as the Giants' quarterback, beginning Sunday at Tampa Bay. The move comes less than 24 hours after Shurmur refused to say Manning would remain the starter following two straight losses, the sixth time in seven years New York has gotten off to a 0-2 start.

The 38-year-old Manning has been the Giants' starter since replacing Kurt Warner after nine games in the 2004 season, the year Manning was traded to New York by San Diego after it took him with the No. 1 overall pick.

Manning led the Giants to Super Bowl titles following the 2007 and '11 seasons, beating Tom Brady and the Patriots both times.

"Eli and I spoke this morning," Shurmur said. "I told him that we are making a change and going with Daniel as the starter. I also talked to Daniel. Eli was obviously disappointed, as you would expect, but he said he would be what he has always been, a good teammate, and continue to prepare to help this team win games. Daniel understands the challenge at hand, and he will be ready to play on Sunday."

In two games, Manning completed 56 of 89 passes for 556 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions for a passer rating of 78.7. But the Giants have scored only four touchdowns, despite averaging 420 yards.

"Ultimately, this is a move that I felt was best for this team at this time," said Shurmur, who is in his second season with the Giants. "I have said it since I got here, I am very fond of Eli. His work ethic, his preparation, his football intelligence. All those attributes are as good as I have ever seen

in a player. And Eli worked as hard as you could ask of anybody to get ready for this season. This move is more about Daniel moving forward than about Eli."

The question of when Jones would take over has been a constant topic since the Giants drafted him, and the issue gained momentum when the 22-year-old Duke product completed 29 of 34 passes for 416 yards, two touchdowns, no interceptions in the preseason. His 137.2 quarterback rating was the best in the league. The hint of an impending change surfaced Monday and a day later, Shurmur benched the man who has been the face of the organization for the past 15-plus years.

Manning, who is playing in

a team-record 16th season with the Giants, knew the change was a possibility.

"We're 0-2 and you are looking for answers," he said Monday. "I get it, we drafted a guy early and you are not winning games, these things are going to come up. I just have to keep working and do whatever my job is."

On Sunday, his job will be as Jones' backup.

Jones will be the third of the 11 quarterbacks selected in this year's draft to both play and start a game. Kyler Murray, the first overall selection by Arizona, started the Cardinals' first two games. Gardner Minshew II, a sixth-round selection by Jacksonville out of Washington State, started the Jaguars' loss Sunday in



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning looks to throw during the first half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

Houston as a replacement for the injured Nick Foles. Manning has started 232 of the Giants' last 233 regular-season games. The loss Sunday to the Bills dropped his record to .500 at 116-116.

Manning started 210 consecutive regular-season games from Nov. 21, 2004 to Nov. 23, 2017, the second-longest streak by a quarterback in NFL history.

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## Beckham puts on show in MetLife return, Browns top Jets 23-3

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer  
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Odell Beckham Jr. felt right at home again — in the end zone and on the highlight reels. With an 89-yard touch-down catch and a spectacular one-handed grab in his return to MetLife Stadium, the Browns wide receiver helped lift Cleveland past the short-handed and banged-up New York Jets 23-3 on Monday night. "We got the ball in (No.) 13's hands," Browns wide receiver Jarvis Landry said, "and let him go." Beckham, traded from the Giants in March, helped the Browns (1-1) bounce back from a 30-point loss to Tennessee in their opener to top the Jets (0-2) and give Freddie Kitchens his first win as Cleveland's coach. It all came after Beckham

called out Jets defensive coordinator Gregg Williams last Thursday, saying the coach — then with the Browns — instructed players to hurt him in a preseason game in 2017. Williams denied Beckham's accusations and jokingly asked reporters: "Odell who?" Williams, who led the Browns to a 5-3 record as their interim coach last season, also chided reporters for giving Beckham attention and wouldn't call him one of the NFL's most dynamic players. "Everything fuels me," Beckham said. "Good comments, bad comments, I feel all of that. I just want to be the very best that I can and be the leader I am supposed to be." Well, Williams clearly knows who Beckham is now. The coach was seen shouting angrily on the sideline after Beckham's touchdown. "Who?" Beckham said when asked about Williams'



Cleveland Browns' Odell Beckham (13) catches a pass in front of New York Jets' Nate Hairston (21) during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

comments. "No, everybody has the right to their own opinion. He's a phenomenal coach, he's got a great defense, but I'm done talking about it, you know? We won, so I just tried to make plays to help the team." Beckham finished with six catches for 161 yards and the TD from Baker Mayfield, who couldn't believe Williams' comments. "He said that? Jesus," the Browns quarterback said, shaking his head. "Next question. Not a dynamic football player? OK." New York lost quarterback Trevor Siemian to an ankle injury in the second quarter, and Luke Falk — promoted from the practice squad earlier in the day — played the rest of the game. Siemian was starting in place of Sam Darnold, who's sidelined for at least a few weeks while recovering from mononucleosis. "Yeah, it's been a weird week," Falk said. "A week

ago, I was on the practice squad and then tonight I'm standing in front of you guys after playing in a game." The Jets couldn't get anything going on offense, and the Browns blew open the game late in the third quarter. Falk led the Jets on their longest drive of night to that point — 60 yards — but Le'Veon Bell could only get 1 yard on a fourth-and-2 pass, turning the ball over on downs at the Browns 11. On the next play, Mayfield hit Beckham with a slant pass, and the receiver outran the Jets' defenders all the way to the end zone for an 89-yard TD that put Cleveland up 23-3 with 3:32 remaining in the third quarter. "That did it and that was huge for us," said running back Nick Chubb, who had a 19-yard TD run. "We took all the momentum away from them with that long run. After that, it was

our game to lose." Beckham helped the Browns take a 3-0 lead on their first possession on Austin Seibert's 23-yard field goal — a drive highlighted by a spectacular 33-yard, one-handed grab that got Cleveland down to the Jets 4. It was reminiscent of Beckham's highlight-reel, one-handed reception for the Giants on "Sunday Night Football" as a rookie in 2014. On this one, Mayfield found Beckham down the right sideline, and the receiver stuck out his right hand to snare the ball behind Nate Hairston, starting in place of Trumaine Johnson — in nearly the same spot as his big catch five years ago. And, yes, Beckham was wearing his expensive watch — despite the NFL telling him last week not to. Beckham then had to come out of the game briefly because officials made him change his mir-

rored visor, saying it was reflective. He returned with a clear visor on his helmet. Seibert's 48-yarder gave the Browns a 6-0 lead with 6:15 left in the opening quarter as Cleveland out-gained New York 101-4 in the first quarter. "We've got to take a hard look at this and figure out what's going on," Jets coach Adam Gase said. NOW WHAT? Siemian was sidelined after throwing a long incomplete pass to Ryan Griffin. Cleveland's Myles Garrett slammed into him, and fell on top of him. Siemian appeared to roll his left ankle as Garrett, who was penalized for roughing the passer, sent him to the turf. Siemian was on crutches and his left foot in a walking boot in the locker room. He will have an MRI on Tuesday. Falk replaced Siemian with 7:58 left in the half and helped the Jets get their first points on a 46-yard field goal by Sam Ficken, the team's fourth kicker since July. Siemian finished 3 of 6 for 3 yards, while Falk was 20 of 25 for 198 yards as the Jets lost their seventh straight at home, dating to last season. STATS Mayfield, who beat the Jets last year in his NFL debut during a Thursday night game that ended Cleveland's 19-game winless skid, was 19 of 35 for 325 yards, including the TD to Beckham, and an interception. ... Garrett had three of the Browns' four sacks. ... Bell had 68 yards rushing on 21 carries and 10 catches for 61 yards for the Jets. EMOTIONAL RETURN Browns defensive end Chris Smith played after his girlfriend, Petara Cordero, was killed in a car accident last week. □



# A's waste late lead to Royals, lead over Tampa Bay down to 1

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — Brett Phillips hit a tying home run off Liam Hendricks in the ninth inning, Adalberto Mondesi followed with an RBI double and Kansas City ended Oakland's six-game winning streak.

The Athletics' lead over Tampa Bay for the top AL wild card was cut to one game. Cleveland is 1 1/2 games behind the Rays.

Khris Davis' RBI single off Kevin McCarthy (4-2) gave Oakland a 5-4 lead in the eighth.

Phillips homered on a 2-0 fastball from Hendricks (4-3) with one out in the ninth, Hendricks' sixth blown save in 28 chances.

Marcus Semien singled leading off the bottom half for Oakland but Ian Kennedy retired his next three batters for his 30th save in 35 chances, giving the Royals' Ned Yost his 1,200th win in 16 seasons as a major league manager.

## TWINS 5, WHITE SOX 3

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — José Berrios pitched into the eighth inning to win his sec-

ond straight start, Mitch Garver hit a go-ahead double and Minnesota increased its lead to five games in the AL Central.

Seeking their first division title since 2010, the Twins (92-58) are assured of their best record since finishing 94-68 nine years ago.

Berrios (13-8) allowed two runs and five hits in 7 1/3 innings with eight strikeouts and two walks. He was rewarded with a standing ovation when he was removed.

Tyler Duffey finished the eighth, Sergio Romo allowed Eloy Jiménez's homer leading off the ninth before getting an out, and Taylor Rogers needed just eight pitches to finish a six-hitter for his 27th save in 33 chances.

White Sox starter Reynaldo López (9-14) gave up five runs and nine hits in 5 1/3 innings.

## TIGERS 5, ORIOLES 2

**DETROIT (AP)** — Jordy Mercer hit a two-run homer in the first inning, and Detroit split a four-game series be-



Kansas City Royals' Whit Merrifield, right, celebrates with Jorge Soler (12) after scoring the game-winning run against the Oakland Athletics in the ninth inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

tween the teams with the worst records in the major leagues. After the first series in American League history between teams in 50 or more games under .500, Detroit (45-104) has a 3 1/2-game "lead" over Baltimore (49-101) for the top pick in

June's amateur draft, which goes to the club with the lowest winning percentage this season.

Detroit needs to win one of its final six games at Comerica Park to avoid breaking the major league record of 59 home losses, set by the

1939 St. Louis Browns.

Tyler Alexander (1-3), a 24-year-old left-hander forced into the rotation by a doubleheader last week, got his first big league win. John Means (10-11) gave up five runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings. □

## Continued from Page 18

He was denied bond, with the judge saying she believed Vázquez was a flight risk, the newspaper reported.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said it began investigating the 28-year-old in August after learning of an alleged sexual relationship between Vázquez and a teenage girl living in Lee County, Florida. Vázquez, who lives in Saint Cloud, Florida, and the victim began the relationship when the girl was 13, authorities said.

The girl, now 15, allegedly received a text message from Vázquez in July in which he was performing a sex act. Vázquez also texted the girl to ask if she wanted to meet for a sexual encounter following the end of the baseball season, according to police. According to the affidavit, while Vazquez's face

is not visible in the images sent to the victim, authorities were able to identify him by matching tattoos in the picture against tattoos of Vazquez they discovered on the internet. The victim's mother discovered the communication in July and texted Vazquez to tell him the person he was communicating with was a minor, the affidavit said. Authorities matched the evidence to Vázquez's phone number.

Authorities arrested Vázquez after executing a search warrant Tuesday morning at his Pittsburgh apartment. Police said they seized electronic devices that will be used in the investigation. Vázquez is expected to be extradited to Florida.

A two-time All-Star pitcher from Venezuela, Vázquez is 5-1 with a 1.65 ERA and 28 saves for the Pirates this season.

"We take this matter, and these charges in particular, extremely seriously," Pirates president Frank Coonelly said in a statement.

The baseball commissioner's office placed Vázquez on administrative leave under its agreement with the players' association on handling domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. The union declined to comment.

Administrative leave is not considered discipline. Vázquez goes on the restricted list and continues to receive his \$4 million salary but is ineligible to play. The arrest is the latest setback in a turbulent season for the Pirates, who are last in the NL Central.

Vázquez and reliever Kyle Crick were both suspended a game last week after getting into a physical altercation in San Francisco. Crick injured the index finger of his right hand dur-



In this Sept. 1, 2019, file photo, Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Felipe Vazquez works against the Colorado Rockies in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Denver.

Associated Press

ing the altercation and underwent season-ending surgery. Crick maintained Vázquez threw the first punch, with general manager Neal Huntington condemning both players for their actions.

Vázquez is in the second season of a \$22 million, four-year contract that in-

cludes team options for 2022 and 2023.

"It's something that hits home," Pirates pitcher Chris Archer said. "I have a 14-year-old sister. In the U.S., you're innocent until proven guilty. Until due process is completely played out, we're hoping that this stuff's not true." □



# Ozuna has 4 RBIs, Cardinals beat Nationals 4-2

By The Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Marcell Ozuna drove in four runs and threw out a runner at home plate from left field, leading the St. Louis Cardinals over the Washington Nationals 4-2 on Monday night.

St. Louis retained its two-game lead over the second-place Chicago Cubs in the NL Central. Washington is one-half game ahead of the Cubs for the top NL wild card.

Nationals manager Dave Martinez missed the game following a heart procedure in Washington, and bench coach Chip Hale was in charge of the dug-out. Dexter Fowler walked against Sean Doolittle (6-5) with one out in the seventh, Hunter Strickland walked Paul Goldschmidt with two outs and Ozuna doubled just inside the left-field line, just the second hit in 11 at-bats for the Cardinals with runners in scoring position. Dakota Hudson (16-7) won for the sixth time in seven starts. Carlos Martinez got his 20th save in 23 chances.

## ROCKIES 9, METS 4

**DENVER (AP)** — Pitcher Antonio Senzatela hit a tying, two-run single that ended a year-long 0-for-44 slide at the plate, Trevor Story followed three pitches later with a three-run homer of Steven Matz to cap a six-run fourth inning and Colorado drop New York five



Washington Nationals' Asdrubal Cabrera (13) is tagged out at home by St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina during the fourth inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

games back for the second NL wild card with 12 games to play.

Brandon Nimmo, batting leadoff for the first time since May 17, opened the game with a home run off Senzatela (10-10). Starting their last road trip of the regular season, the Mets built a 4-1 lead on Jeff McNeil's two-run homer in the third that stopped an 0-for-13 slump and Amed Rosario's RBI double in the fourth. Matz, who allowed Ian Desmond's second-inning homer, needed 42 pitches to get through the fourth and dropped to 0-2 with a

10.15 ERA in three starts at Coors Field.

Charlie Blackmon singled with one out, Ryan McMahon walked and Garrett Hampson hit an RBI single with two outs.

Matz (10-9) allowed seven runs, six hits and two walks in four innings.

Senzatela gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings.

## DIAMONDBACKS 7, MARLINS 5

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Robbie Ray pitched 5 2/3 innings of no-hit ball, Jake Lamb hit a crucial three-run double and Arizona rallied to beat Miami.

The Diamondbacks, clinging to slim postseason hopes, remained 5 1/2 games back of the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild card with 11 to play and also would have to leapfrog Milwaukee, Philadelphia and the New York Mets.

At 52-98, the NL-worst Marlins matched their loss total of last year and appear headed to their first 100-defeat season since 2013.

Trailing 5-3, Arizona sent eight batters to the plate in the seventh, punctuated by Lamb's two-out double down the right-field line. Ke-

tel Marte hit an RBI double and Eduardo Escobar hit a solo homer for his 35th of the season.

Yoshihisa Hirano (5-5) pitched a scoreless inning, and Kevin Ginkel got three straight outs for his first big league save. Tayron Guerrero (1-2) gave up three runs, two hits and a walk without getting any outs.

## CUBS 8, REDS 2

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Kyle Schwarber hit a three-run homer and made a diving catch in left field, helping Chicago win its fifth straight. Nicholas Castellanos added a two-run double in the eighth inning as the Cubs moved a season-high 14 games above .500. Chicago has outscored its opponents 59-18 during its win streak. The Cubs (82-68) pulled within a half-game of Washington for the top spot in the wild-card standings and stayed two games back of NL Central-leading St. Louis, which held off the Nationals for a 4-2 win.

Steve Cishek, Alec Mills (1-0), Rowan Wick, Kyle Ryan and David Phelps combined for 5 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of an ineffective Cole Hamels. It was Mills' first major league win in his 17th big league appearance.

Kevin Gausman (3-9) pitched two innings for the Reds in his first start since he was claimed off waivers from the Braves last month.

# Russia sending 29 athletes to track worlds on neutral team

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The suspended Russian track federation is sending a team of 29 competitors to the world championships in Qatar, where they will compete as neutral athletes.

High jumper Mariya Lasitskene is the only reigning world champion among the group announced by the federation Tuesday. Lasitskene has jumped a world leading 2.06 meters this season but has failed to clear 2 meters at four of

her last five events.

Other medal contenders include Sergei Shubenkov, the 2015 world champion in the 110-meter hurdles, and high jumpers Mikhail Akimenko and Ilya Ivanyuk. Many Russian athletes with past doping bans were not cleared to compete, including race walker Elena Lashmanova, the world leader in the 20-kilometer event this year. Lashmanova is a former Olympic gold medalist, as is Anna Chicherova, another ath-

lete who was not allowed to go.

With 29 Russian neutral athletes, there will be 10 more than at the last world championships two years ago. The squad includes 16 women, compared to just seven in 2017.

Russia has been suspended from international track and field since 2015 over widespread doping, but 131 athletes have since been cleared to compete as neutrals. They must present evidence of thorough



Mariya Lasitskene competes in the women's high jump final during the Match Europe against USA athletics competition on the Dinamo stadium in Minsk, Belarus, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

drug testing to a panel set up by track's world governing body, the IAAF. Athletes from the neutral

team do not wear national colors and if one wins a gold medal, the IAAF anthem is played. □



# Kyle Busch criticism highlights NASCAR's financial disparity

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer

The massive divide between NASCAR's heavyweights and the underdog teams just scraping by received renewed attention following Kyle Busch's damning assessment of how backmarkers raced in the playoff opener over the weekend.

Busch rallied from an early incident at Las Vegas Motor Speedway that dropped him two laps off the pace to stunningly position himself for a top-five finish. Instead, he ran into the back of Garrett Smithley, who was 12 laps down in 35th place.

Busch, the regular-season champion, dropped to a 19th-place finish and went from first to fourth in the playoff standings. Clearly aggravated after Sunday's race, he was blunt about the incident with Smithley, who was among 23 drivers on the track that day who are not in the 16-driver playoff field.

"I was told he was going to go high. I thought he was going to go high," Busch said of the instructions he received from his spotter. "We went middle because I thought he was going to go high. Killed our day. I don't know. Should have run fourth probably. Instead 19th. We're at the top echelon of motorsports, and we've got guys

who have never won Late Model races running on the racetrack. It's pathetic. They don't know where to go."

The comments have drawn sharp criticism, with some saying they came off as entitled simply because another driver didn't get out of Busch's way. Some responses came from some lesser-known drivers on underfunded teams and helped spark a debate over on-track etiquette during the playoffs.

Tommy Joe Martins, an Xfinity Series driver when he can piece together a deal to get in a non-competitive car, on Tuesday supported "my friend" Smithley and called him a "really good racecar driver."

"This fear for any of us driving for a small team: become a controversy," Martins posted on Twitter. "We all just want to race & be respected. Stuff like this proves how bitter the divide is between 2 sides of this garage. It's depressing to me."

Smithley will be Rick Ware Racing's driver for Saturday night's race at Richmond Raceway, the second event in NASCAR's 10-race playoff series. It will be his 13th career Cup Series start; he has one top-five finish in 133 starts across the Xfinity and Truck series.

Busch has always driven for one of NASCAR's top



Kyle Busch prepares for a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019.

teams. His break in the Cup Series came with Hendrick Motorsports and he was then hired at Joe Gibbs Racing, which has won 14 of 27 races this season and placed all four of its drivers in the playoff field. Busch has 207 victories across NASCAR's three national series and won the 2015 Cup championship.

His criticism of the smaller teams and the drivers trying to claw their way up to Busch's level prompted a lengthy rebuke from Smithley.

He noted that, unlike Busch, who followed his older brother, Kurt, into a ride at NASCAR's top level, Smithley "didn't grow up in a rac-

ing family, and we certainly didn't have the funds to race. The only race car my parents ever bought was a used Bandolaro race car when I was 15. I didn't think I had a chance starting that late."

Smithley said he won enough races that a local golf cart shop owner stepped in as a sponsor, bought him a Legends car and helped Smithley move up to touring level. Then he decided to relocate to North Carolina, the hub of NASCAR, and try to make it in the big leagues.

"When I decided to move to Charlotte to pursue a career as a professional driver there is no doubt I

had to basically give up the chance to win races in order to 'fund' getting the opportunity to race," he continued. "I am one of only a handful of drivers that actually has never spent any of my own money to race. So spending money to go win in a late model was never an option, because the only way I can afford to race is if someone else pays for it."

Smithley said he sells his own sponsorship, which he then brings to a team in order to secure seat time. He said most companies and sponsors prefer to back "someone like Kyle" to get the marketing value they want. □

## Keys beats Kasatkina in 1st round of Pan Pacific Open

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Fifth-seeded Madison Keys improved her overall record against Daria Kasatkina to 6-0 by beating the Russian 6-3, 6-4 on Tuesday in the first round of the Pan Pacific Open.

Keys converted six of her 10 break points in the match. "I feel good. I'm always a little bit nervous ahead of my first matches," Keys said. "It's always hard to get out there and get all the nerves out. I started a little slow but I was really

happy to get the win."

The American will next face Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan. Also, Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan saved a match point before defeating Garbine Muguruza of Spain 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-1.

At the Korea Open in Seoul, qualifier Timea Babos upset former champion Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-3 in the first round.

Babos will next play third-seeded Karolina Muchova, who dropped a set before defeating Alison van

Uytvanck 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

In other first round matches, qualifier Ana Bogdan beat sixth-seeded Polona Hercog 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, Anastasia Potapova came from a break down to beat wildcard entry Han Na-Lae 7-6 (4), 6-1, and qualifier Priscilla Hon defeated Hiroshima semifinalist Mihaela Buzarnescu 6-3, 6-4.

At the Guangzhou International in China, top-seeded Elina Svitolina defeated Dalila Jakupovic 6-3, 6-3.

Also, third-seeded Sofia



Timea Babos of Hungary returns a shot to Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia during their first round match of the Korea Open tennis championships in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

Kenin recorded 6-4, 6-2 victory over Laura Siegemund and sixth-seeded Saisai Zheng had to save a

match point before beating doubles partner Yingying Duan 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3), 6-1. □





## By Dr. Carlos Viana

In our clinic we have developed a protocol that has been shown to be effective in the treatment of hot, painful junctions between bones. Joints problems are commonly called "arthritis" but it is a group of different forms of joint inflammation whose origin is not known. Traditional Chinese Medicine calls the different conditions which cause pain, stiffness, and in most cases, swelling in the joints "steaming bones".

In regular, allopathic medicine the initial treatment for joint pain is limited to the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) resulting in many patients eventually becoming wheelchair bound. Others have excess tissue produced from the uncontrolled arthritis removed. The result is progressive joint dam-

age making arthritis the number one cause of physical disability. Arthritis affects both sexes, all races, socioeconomic levels, and geographic areas.

Identical twins statistically do not both develop arthritis. Medical researchers realize there is no genetic foundation to arthritis. Associations with the Epstein-Barr virus that causes mononucleosis, and testing on animals with the herpes simplex virus have pharmaceutical companies looking for the "something" that produces arthritis so a pill or vaccine can be developed. All 86 forms of arthritis have one thing in common; chronic inflammation that breaks down connective tissue. Connective tissue has the material to rebuild itself when the body is in balance. However, in the presence of inflammation, this material builds big painful joints. With unrelenting inflammation the body's immune system turns to attack itself.

Health care in Western countries today has a major focus on disease, infection and their risk factors; cholesterol, smoking, and blood pressure. Although allopathic medicine recognizes indicators found in blood tests and thermogram reports, very little attention is given to them. Even less attention is placed on managing the risk of the body's reaction to toxins and heavy metals except in acute poisoning. Additionally, recognized but not addressed are oxidative stress, connective tissue breakdown, chronic inflammation, anaerobic tendency, free calcium excess, and acid stress; all leading to degenerative diseases and accelerated aging. Life expectancy for patients with any form of arthritis is shortened by 5-10 years. After 5 years of disease, approximately 33% of patients will not be working; after 10 years, approximately half will be wheelchair bound. Daily activities are impaired

## Deteriorating junction

in most patients. Spontaneous clinical remission, getting better, is uncommon with allopathic medicine and only seen in 5-10% of patients. In our patients with painful joints, we see many common features. The first is that they do not drink enough water. Painful stiff joint symptoms are present in the beginning of mild dehydration. In moderate chronic dehydration we see most of the symptoms of Arthritis, including High cholesterol, High blood pressure, Heart Problems, Diabetes, and Water Retention or Edema. Chronic dehydration is a problem doctors normally do not address until it is life threatening. Water plays a critical role in every single chemical reaction in the body. Next to oxygen, it is the most vital element of life. Yet, it seems to be virtually ignored by doctors and Public Health Departments. We have good results using colon hydro-therapy to help eliminate toxins and re-hydrate the body.

Joint cartilage is composed mainly of water (70-80%). The solid part of cartilage consists primarily of collagen which is a protein. Problems in the synovial membrane to transfer glucose and protein will hinder the production of collagen. The most abundant circulating protein is found in the blood plasma is albumin. Levels of albumin are often decreased in people with active rheumatoid arthritis. We can check and monitor your amount of albumin by ordering a blood test.

If your blood serum albumin is low, the synovial membrane will not have sufficient protein available to transfer into the joint. Our arthritis protocol is to determine what is reducing your blood albumin level. Albumin serves to sponge up toxins produced by bacterial infections. We always test to identify infection together with albumin.

In our clinic we have found that periodontal disease, a bacterial

infection of the gums, causes by-products to enter the bloodstream and trigger the liver to make proteins such as C - reactive protein (CRP) that inflames arteries, joints and promotes blood clot formation. Periodontal disease and heavy metal poisoning, need to be considered as major contributors to increased levels of CRP by the medical community. The treatment outcomes with people being treated by physicians trained in biocompatible dentistry and detoxification of heavy metals are very positive.

We see definite co-relationships between joint problems and patient's metabolic type. Generally, we find that Blood Type A and AB tends to get a puffy, inflamed arthritis, while Blood Type O tends to get a harder, more persistent type of arthritis. At Viana Healing Center we put all patients on the blood type diet, which can additionally be modified for the individual.

The sugar of wheat germ is highly specific to Blood type A and O in causing joint pain. The adoption of a wheat-free diet appears to have a positive effect. Type O individuals following the type O diet have experienced beneficial changes in their blood test results, including total cholesterol, HDL and Triglycerides, without use of cholesterol lowering medications.

Get The Point! A diagnosis of any type of arthritis should be a wake up call. Allopathic medicine offers a health future that does not look bright. We use blood, amino acid, hair testing and biocompatible (natural/non-toxic) dental exams to determine the source of your inflammation. Applying the science based results; we develop a natural health plan that can make positive changes not only for your joints, but your overall wellbeing. Call to schedule an appointment.



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# Once ridiculed, index funds now hold the reins in US stocks

**NEW YORK (AP)** — They're simple, cheap and now the most popular way for many people to invest in the U.S. stock market: index funds. Last month, for the first time, the number of dollars invested in funds tracking the S&P 500 and other U.S. stock indexes eclipsed those in funds run by managers trying to beat those indexes, according to preliminary data from Morningstar. With \$4.27 trillion in assets at the end of August, U.S. stock index funds edged past the \$4.25 trillion in funds run by stock-picking managers. The figures don't yet include data from several dozen funds, so they could change as more funds report. But even if the precise moment didn't occur last month, industry watchers say it's likely inevitable that index funds will usurp actively managed funds' top billing. That's because investors have been consistently pulling dollars out of actively managed funds



Trader Gregory Rowe monitors stock prices at the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Sept. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

and shoving them into index funds for more than a decade.

"This milestone has been a long time coming," Morningstar said in a report. It's a far cry from roughly

four decades ago, when the first index mutual fund for individual investors hit the market to ridicule. Why would anyone be satisfied with average returns? Wouldn't investors always

prefer the potential of better?

Turns out that average is pretty good when most funds fall short of it. Over the last 10 years, only 8% of actively managed funds

that invest in a mix of large U.S. stocks beat their average index-fund rival.

Index funds have a head start in the race for returns because of their lower expenses. Higher fees mean actively managed funds have to perform that much better just to match the performance of index funds. The average expense ratio for stock index funds was 0.08% last year, which means they held onto \$8 of every \$10,000 invested, according to the Investment Company Institute. The average expense ratio for actively managed stock funds, meanwhile, was nearly 10 times that at 0.76%. Of course, the rush to index investing has raised concerns of its own. If index funds get control of too much of the stock market, they could distort prices because money will flow into stocks based on how big a proportion they are of indexes, rather than how valuable investors see them as a company. □

# World's top brewer revives listing plans, halves IPO size

Associated Press

**HONG KONG (AP)** — AB InBev, the world's largest brewer that produces Budweiser and Corona, on Tuesday revived plans to list its Asian business in Hong Kong but halved the size of its initial public offering to \$4.8 billion.

The move comes two months after it temporarily shelved plans to raise \$9.8 billion in what would have been the world's biggest IPO this year, citing market conditions due to prolonged, sometimes violent protests for democratic reforms in Hong Kong.

It still will be the biggest IPO in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory and will provide a shot-in-the-arm for the government as it seeks to assuage international jitters over the months-long unrest that showed no signs of ending. The company's Asia-Pacific subsidiary, Budweiser Brewing Company APAC Limited, said it will offer nearly 1.3 million shares for sale,

for between 27 and 30 Hong Kong dollars each (\$3.45-\$3.83), raising up to \$4.8 billion. This was lower than the 40-47 Hong Kong dollar price range it proposed earlier.

It said the revised offering includes an "upsized" option that will allow the company to sell up to 38 percent more shares if demand is strong. That could take the total sale up to \$6.6 billion. The company said Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC Private Limited will be its cornerstone investor, taking up \$1 billion or 22 percent of the IPO. The listing, planned for Sept. 30, follows the company's recent sale of its Australian business to Japanese rival Asahi Group for (\$11.3 billion) to pay down debts.

"We believe now is the right moment to do this IPO. We see keen interest in the market," said Budweiser APAC's Chief Executive Jan Craps. He said the company views Hong Kong as the best place for the listing despite



From left, Frank Wang, Executive Director, Jan Craps, Executive Director and CEO and Guilherme Castellan, Chief Financial Officer of Budweiser Brewing Company APAC Limited pose with products in Hong Kong Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

the unrest and that the revised valuations will make the IPO more attractive.

The unrest has hit Hong Kong's economy, which is facing its first recession in

years.

"You can say the conditions are more challenging but when we listen to potential investors, we believe there is solid excitement about this business and this IPO... there is very strong investor interest to make this transaction happen," he added. □

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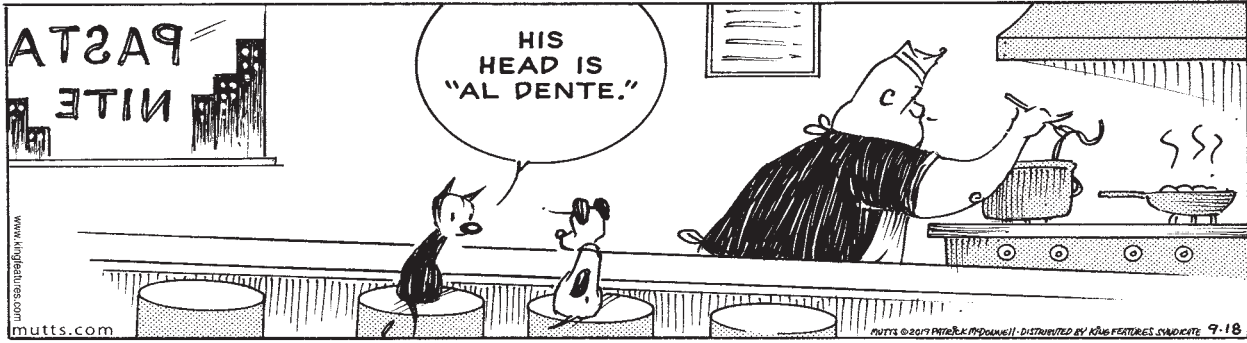
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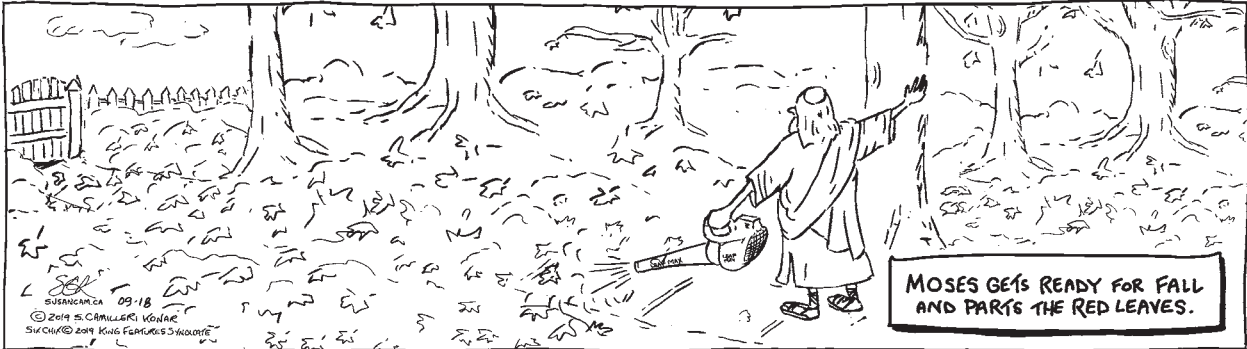
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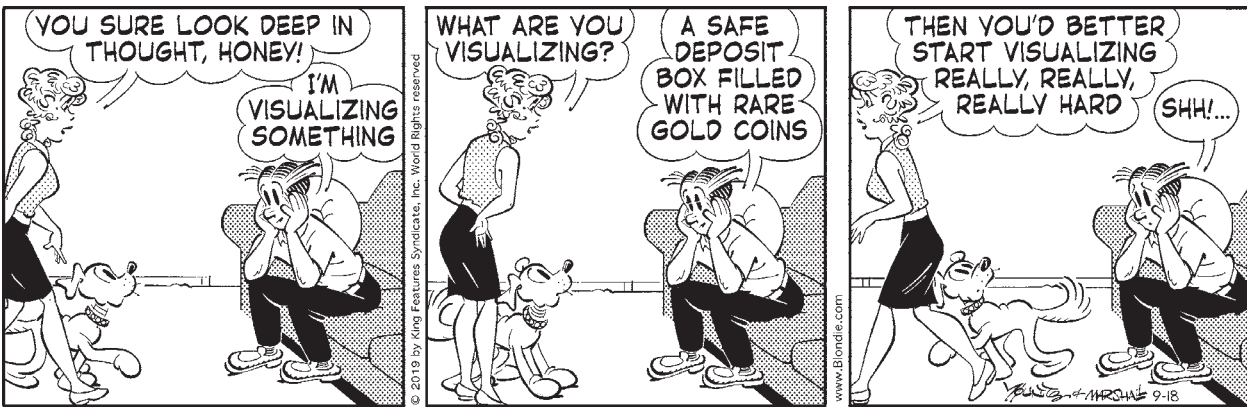
## Mutts



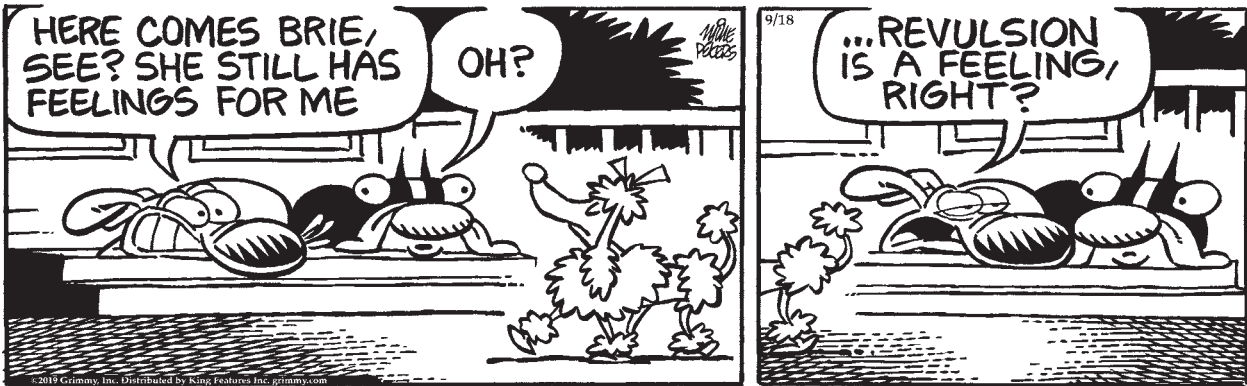
## 6 Chix



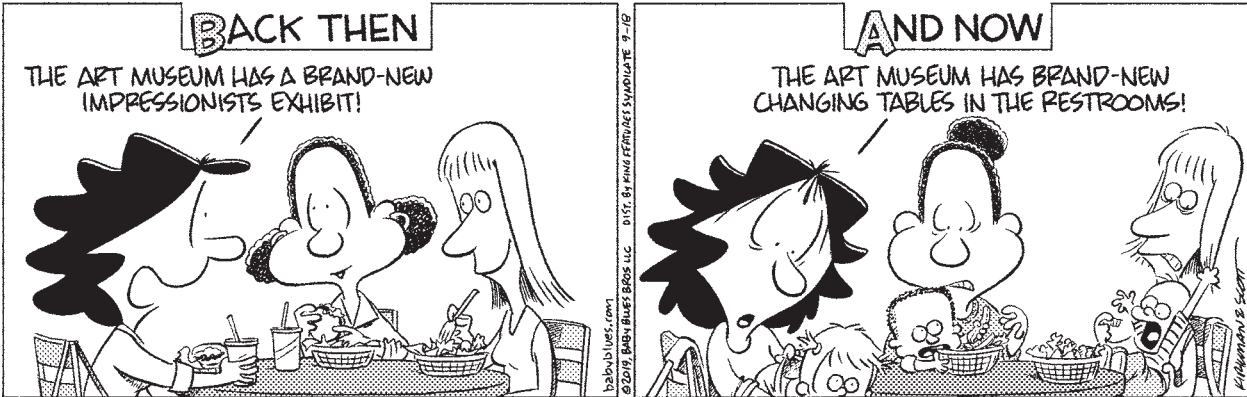
## Blondie



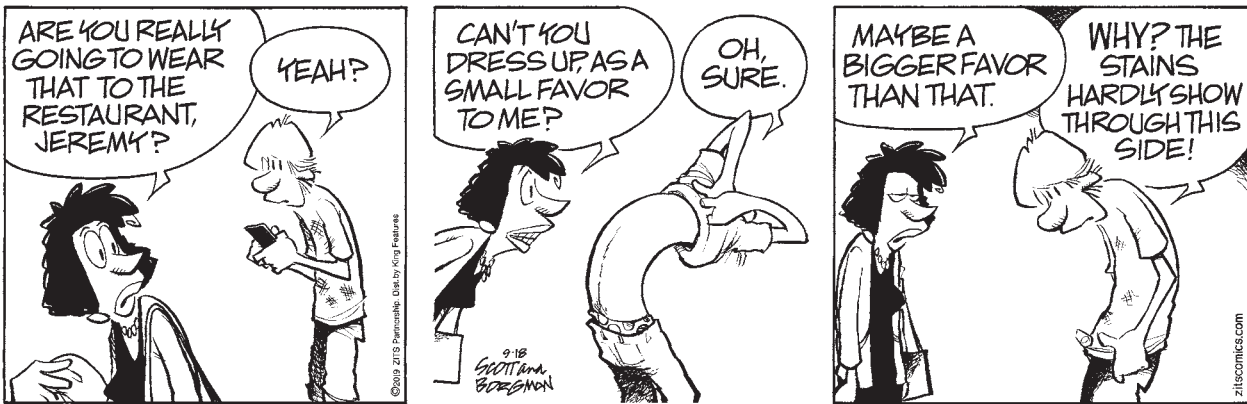
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

		8	4	6	7			
			2			9		
3		7					1	
9	3				5			1
	5						9	
7	8	4						6
6	4		5				7	
8				4	1	2		
			7	8				

Difficulty Level ★★

9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

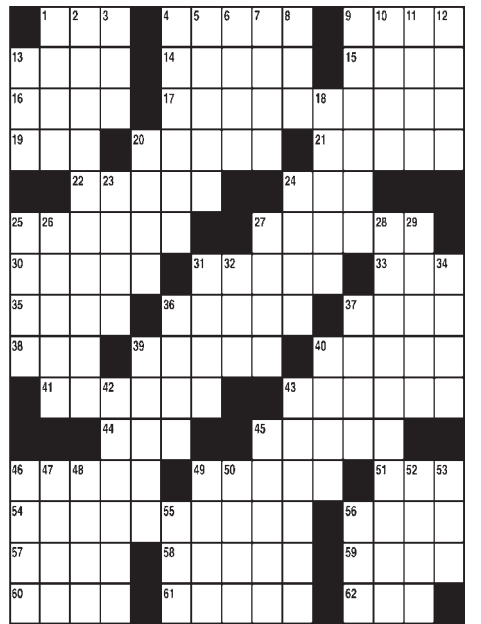
8	6	5	2	7	4	3	1	9
1	4	7	5	3	9	2	8	6
9	2	3	1	8	6	7	4	5
3	9	8	7	5	1	4	6	2
7	5	6	9	4	2	1	3	8
4	1	2	8	6	3	9	5	7
5	3	4	6	2	7	8	9	1
2	8	1	4	9	5	6	7	3
6	7	9	3	1	8	5	2	4

## ACROSS

- Clamor
- Leftover fragment
- As \_\_\_ as molasses
- Horse's hair
- In a \_\_\_; quickly
- Hairy fruit
- Pesky insect
- Parties with wedding cakes
- Incensed
- The Mamas & the \_\_\_
- Hose down
- Run and wed
- Olive Oyl's hairdo
- Pouty moods
- Stick around
- Grown-up
- T-bone or New York
- Cistern
- Bona fide
- Male animals
- Actress Behrs
- Tit for \_\_\_
- "Dancing with the \_\_\_"
- "Ave \_\_\_"
- Wiggle room
- Deep narrow valley
- Razz
- Tendon
- One-masted sailboat
- Smiles
- "I've \_\_\_ it!"; cry of disgust
- "Alice's Adventures in \_\_\_"
- Person listed in a will
- Suffix for bear or wash
- Brink
- Military force
- Mattel products
- Look of contempt
- "\_\_\_ Miserables"

## DOWN

- Plato or Carvey
- Deficient
- Badminton court divider
- Sandal features
- Thin pancake



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/18/19

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

CURB	PARIS	PLOW
AREA	AGILE	IOWA
ASPS	COLLECTING	
NAR	MINE	RINSE
EDIFY	FEE	
EASILY	BEASTS	
CLERK	GLEAM	REC
HINT	FAINT	MINI
OCT	SALES	COAST
ESTATE	BARNEY	
RUE	CLING	
CATON	THAN	UPA
UPROARIOUS	CLIP	
BEEP	ERECT	SANE
AXES	DESKS	IRKS

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9/18/19

- Source of harm
- Steal
- "A \_\_\_ home is his castle"
- Wears away
- Fragment of ash
- Burn at the edges
- Kill flies
- Mexican wolf
- "You \_\_\_ Live Twice"; 007 film
- Singer Campbell
- Goals
- Help with the dishes
- Winnabagos, for short
- Actor Linden



# Jolting discovery: Powerful new electric eel found

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers report two newly discovered species of electric eels in South America, one of which can deliver a bigger jolt than any other known animal. The researchers collected 107 eels in four countries and found differences in their DNA, along with minor physical variations. One species had the ability to generate 860 volts of electricity, more than the 650 volts discharged by the only previously identified type of electric eel. While 250 species of fish in South America generate electricity, only electric eels use it to stun prey and for self-protection. Study leader C. David de Santana of Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History says the discovery illustrates the importance of protecting and studying the Amazon rainforest area. The study was published this week in the journal Nature Communications. □



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# Classifieds

## Halley Time Travel

### Marriott Ocean Club Gold Season

1 BR Ocean view \$4500  
2 BR Ocean view \$7000  
1 BR Ocean front \$12,000  
2 BR Ocean front \$14,000

### Platinum Season

1 BR Ocean View \$11,000  
1 BR Ocean Front \$18,000  
2 BR Ocean View \$18,000  
2 BR Ocean Front \$28,000

### Marriott Surf Club Gold Season

2 BR Garden View \$ 6000  
2 BR Ocean View \$7000  
2 BR Ocean Side \$9000  
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 12,000  
3 BR ocean View \$13,000

### Platinum Season

2 BR Garden View \$14,000  
2 BR Ocean View \$17,000  
2 BR Ocean Side \$18,000  
2 BR Ocean Front \$22,000  
3 BR Ocean view \$28,000

### Platinum Plus

2 BR Wk 51 and 52 Ocean Front \$160K  
2 BR Wk 7 Ocean View \$48 K

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### Marriott Aruba Surf Club

#### GOLD Season

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2B Oceanside \$8500  
GV \$6k OV \$7k  
3BEDROOM \$12500

#### PLATINUM Season

2B Oceanfront \$27k  
Oceanside \$16500  
Oceanview \$15500  
3BEDROOM \$26k  
\*WK. 51 GV \$39k  
\*WK 52 OV \$49k  
\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

### Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

#### GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k  
2B OV \$8000  
1 Bed \$4000  
1B Oceanfront \$7500

#### PLATINUM Season

2 Bed OV \$16500  
2B Oceanfront \$24k  
1B OV \$10k

\*\* Destination points \$9 per point

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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# Sage grouse numbers stumble in Montana, across U.S. West

By **MATTHEW BROWN**

Associated Press

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)** —

Montana's greater sage grouse population has fallen more than 40% over the past three years, mirroring recent declines across the U.S. West for the wide-ranging bird species that federal officials rejected for protections in 2015.

State wildlife officials estimate there were about 44,000 ground-dwelling sage grouse in Montana this spring. The figure is included in a report to be delivered to state lawmakers later this month.

Sage grouse once numbered in the millions but have seen their range that stretches across portions of 11 states diminished by oil and gas drilling, wildfires, grazing and other pressures.

Grouse numbers also continued to drop in 2019 in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming. Weather can affect populations from year to year, and wildlife officials say those short-term cycles are most directly responsible for the recent declines. Montana's drop from almost 78,000 grouse in 2016 was traced to an extreme drought in eastern parts of



In this May 9, 2008 file photo, male sage grouse fight for the attention of females southwest of Rawlins, Wyo.

Associated Press

the state in 2017 that had prolonged impacts, said Catherine Wightman with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The decline coincides with increased efforts to conserve grouse habitat, including by working with private landowners to adopt grazing and other practices that are more beneficial to the bird.

"That doesn't mean those plans are not working and doing the right thing," said Wightman. "We're seeing this overall decline. The analysis shows overall the

(population) peaks are getting a little lower and the valleys are getting a little lower. What we'd like to do is stabilize our numbers." Wyoming's population drop was measured by counting the number of male birds strutting on grouse breeding grounds known as leks, said Sara DiRienzo with Wyoming Game and Fish. The number of birds per lek has dropped about 20 percent since 2018 and more than 40 percent since 2016, according to agency figures. This year's numbers are still above the low levels

reached in 2013, DiRienzo said, and likely reflect dry conditions and extreme winter weather that caused many chicks to die.

Wyoming does not have an overall population estimate.

Brian Rutledge with the National Audubon Society said the population drops should not be written off just because they are cyclical, since ongoing habitat loss makes it harder for the bird's numbers to rebound each time they drop.

"We're not in a position to say this is OK. We have too many things working against us," he said.

In Oregon, bird numbers this year reached their lowest number since reliable estimates have been recorded beginning in 1996, said sage grouse conservation coordinator Lee Foster with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The state counted approximately 14,000 grouse, less than half the state's target of 30,000 birds.

"I'm very hopeful we're at the bottom this year," Foster said. "There is cause for concern even if the trend fits within what we would expect with the population cycle."

Grouse numbers in Idaho have dropped more than 50 percent since 2015. Nevada reported an 8 percent decline this year in lek counts of male birds.

The bird's population also was down in Utah, with the 2019 lek count marking a 61% decline from 2015, according to state wildlife officials. Part of that low number was attributed to a snow pack that lingered longer than usual, preventing people from getting to some of the areas they normally count, said Blair Stringham of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

The 2015 decision not to protect sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act came after state and federal officials crafted sweeping conservation plans for the birds across their range.

Under Republican President Donald Trump, the Interior Department has relaxed restrictions on mining and drilling that were included in the original plans adopted under his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama. Impacts from those changes are expected to be long-term and not reflected in the latest population numbers. □

# Study finds air pollution reaches placenta during pregnancy



In this Aug. 7, 2018 file photo, a doctor performs an ultrasound scan on a pregnant woman at a hospital in Chicago.

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A new study suggests when a pregnant woman breathes in air pollution, it can travel beyond her lungs to the placenta that guards her fetus.

Pollution composed of tiny particles from car exhaust, factory smokestacks and other sources is dangerous to everyone's health, and during pregnancy it's been linked to premature births and low birth weight. But

scientists don't understand why, something that could affect care for women in highly polluted areas. One theory is that the particles lodge in mom's lungs and trigger potentially harmful inflammation.

Tuesday, Belgian researchers reported another possibility, that any risk might be more direct.

A novel scanning technique spotted a type of particle pollution — sootlike black carbon — on placentas donated by 28 new mothers, they reported in Nature Communications. The placenta nourishes a developing fetus and tries to block damaging substances in the mother's bloodstream. The Hasselt University team found the particles accumulated on the side of the placenta

closest to the fetus, near where the umbilical cord emerges.

That's not proof the soot actually crossed the placenta to reach the fetus — or that it's responsible for any ill effects, cautioned Dr. Yoel Sadovsky of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, a leading placenta expert who wasn't involved with the new research.

And it's a small study. Still, "just finding it at the placenta is important," Sadovsky said. "The next question would be how much of these black carbon particles need to be there to cause damage."

Scientists already had some clues from animal studies that particles could reach the placenta, but Tuesday's study is a first with human placentas. □



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# 'Handmaid's Tale,' 'Mrs. Maisel' guest stars capture Emmys

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A trio of Emmy-honored actors are winners again for their guest performances in TV series, joined by an awards newcomer.

Bradley Whitford and Cherry Jones received trophies for their "The Handmaid's Tale" roles at Sunday's creative arts Emmy ceremony. Jane Lynch and Luke Kirby won on the comedy side, both for "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

"Game of Thrones" led with 10 Emmys in technical and other categories at the two-night weekend ceremony, which is the precursor to the main Emmy Awards that will air Sept. 22 on Fox.

"The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" was the top comedy series winner, with six awards.

Jones, who previously won for "24," heaped praise backstage on fellow nominee Phylicia Rashad ("This Is Us"), calling it "absurd" that Rashad has yet to win an Emmy despite four nomina-



Jane Lynch poses in the press room with the award for outstanding guest actress in a comedy series for "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" on night two of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

tions, and saluted Cicely Tyson, nominated for "How to Get Away with Murder." "I got to tell Ms. Tyson tonight that watching the 'Autobiography of Miss

Jane Pittman' is one of the things that made me want to be an actress, and I tell her that every time I see her and she always rolls her eyes," Jones said.

Whitford has an Emmy for "The West Wing" and one for "Transparent" — the latter for guest actor in a comedy, making him the first actor to win comedy

and drama guest star Emmys.

In his acceptance speech, Whitford struck a political note as he thanked Margaret Atwood for the titular novel that is the basis of the dystopian "The Handmaid's Tale."

Atwood is "giving us perspective in this disorienting moment as we are inundated and undermined by a misogynistic, radical, right-wing ideology," he said. "She understands three things: Despair is not an option. Our children can't afford it. Action is the antidote to despair."

Lynch, who added to her four previous Emmys for series including "Glee" and "Hollywood Game Night," said she based her portrayal of a 1950s comic on the women she grew up watching. "I went right to the source: Phyllis Diller, Tottie Fields, Moms Mabley," Lynch said. "Back then, in order for a woman to be in comedy, she had to have a gimmick." □

# Steve Martin's bluegrass award faces uncertain future

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — One morning last week in Boston, Victor Furtado woke up to a mailman's knock. He was handed a little unmarked package.

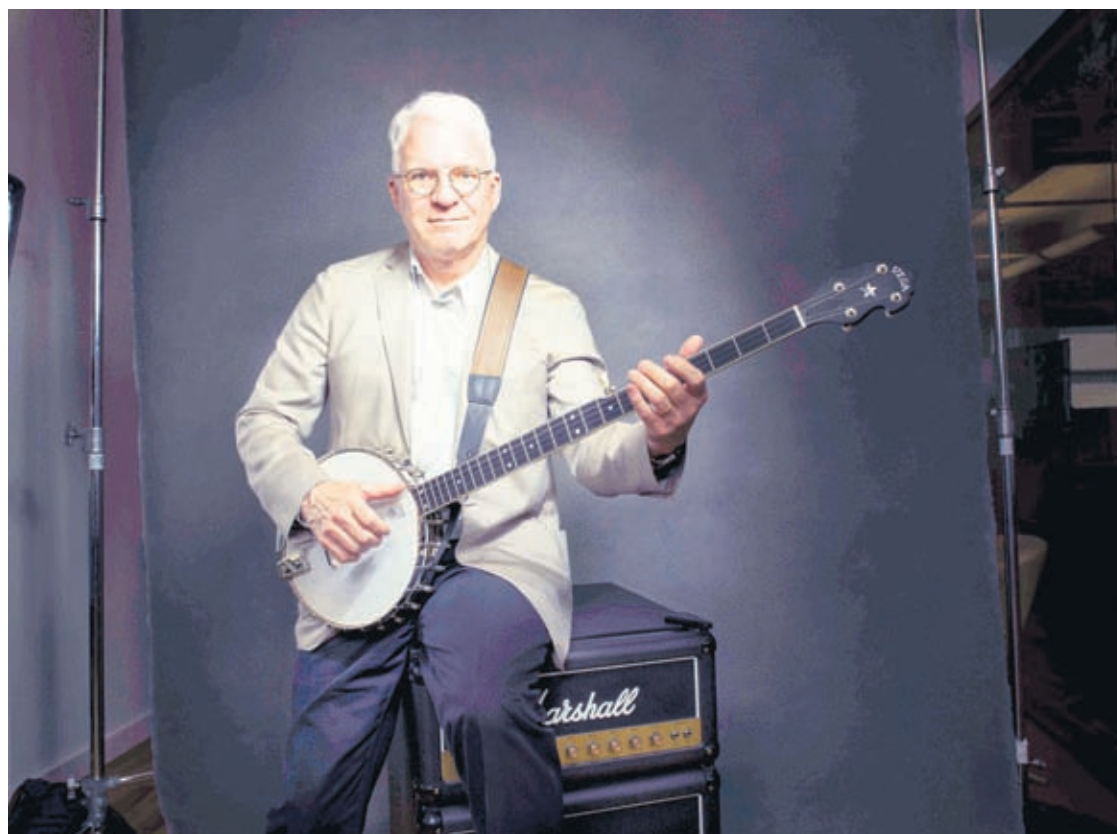
"I opened it up here in my apartment and kind of looked at it for a second, hoping somebody would wake me up. I was shocked, completely blown away."

Inside was word that the 19-year-old Virginia-bred musician had won the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, which comes with a \$50,000 prize and a sculpture.

"I feel so honored to be considered," he said.

But the award was somewhat bittersweet since Furtado — the youngest recipient of the prize given out every year since 2010 — may also be the last. The prize is in danger of disappearing.

Martin said that he and the prize board members are



In this Sept. 2, 2015 photo, Steve Martin poses for a portrait with his banjo in New York.

Associated Press

overwhelmed by the sheer number of qualified musicians as bluegrass goes through a flowering.

"It became very difficult to keep pace, even with all

our great board members, of so many great players. In the '60s, when I was first learning, great players were rare," said Martin.

"Now, if you listen to a blue-

grass channel, you listen to the banjo player and go, 'Who's that?' And you've never even heard of him and they're playing incredibly sophisticated stuff. I

couldn't even pretend to do." Martin hopes some entity might take over administering the prize. Furtado, a student at the Berklee College of Music, hopes it somehow continues but is still grateful if he's the last recipient.

"That was just another added layer of amazement, being that it might be the last one. That they ended up choosing me for it is just such an honor," he said.

Martin and his wife, Anne Stringfield, dreamed up the prize after Martin noticed that some master musicians were still paying off their banjos. "I thought, 'That's got to change.'" The first draft of the prize's statement of purpose was written on the back of a cocktail napkin. It's the only prize of its kind and has an impressive monetary value.

"The one way in America — or anywhere — to bring notoriety is with money," said Martin. "It had to be 'Wow!' It had to really mean something to someone." □



# 'Downton Abbey' film is stately but too safe

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
**Associated Press**

The "Downton Abbey" movie isn't exactly a movie. It's more like another season of the popular "Masterpiece Classic" show that's been condensed to 90 minutes instead of 8 hours. Written by series creator Julian Fellowes, almost every character who made it out of the six season run alive is back for their big screen

debut with their own little arc and some lavish costume changes. But Michael Engler's direction doesn't bring any cinematic grandeur to this continuing story of a family and their servants. And Fellowes' script has the impossible task of giving every character their own mini plot, as if focusing in on one or a few would have had fans of the other members of the very large



This image released by Focus features shows Michelle Dockery as Lady Mary Talbot, center left, and Matthew Goode as Henry Talbot in a scene from "Downton Abbey."

Associated Press

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SUN	3:50   7:20
PBP	MON-FRI 4:25   7:50
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PBP	MON-FRI 5:25   7:30   9:35
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ensemble up in arms. Together it makes "Downton Abbey" the movie a fairly shallow experience: All set dressing and nostalgia and some delicious Dowager Countess one-liners. For "Downton" devotees, the crumbs might be enough. For anyone else just dropping in, however, "Downton Abbey" doesn't exactly stand on its own. The tidy reason for this big reunion is that King George V and Queen Mary have decided to spend a night at Downton Abbey as part of a royal tour. It's 1927 and the aristocratic class is continuing to question their place in a modernizing Britain, but there are just enough of the old traditions left that the news of this royal visit sends the estate into a tizzy. When the royal entourage descends, the downstairs staff is horrified to learn that they'll be sitting on the sidelines for the visit. The royals travel with cooks, footmen, butlers, valets and dressers and this group is especially dismissive of the provincial Downton employees. Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) even decides to enlist the help of their retired

Butler Mr. Carson (Jim Carson), when she feels like his successor Thomas Barrow (Robert James-Collier) isn't equipped to handle this high profile occasion. It's one of many constructions that will leave you wondering whether fan service has gotten in the way of believable storytelling. Yes, it brings Carson back to Downton and allows Thomas to go off on his own adventure in town, but it's hard to deny that this is one overstuffed movie. Consider just some of the subplots floating around: Daisy (Sophie McShera) gets to question her engagement; The long-widowed Branson (Allen Leech) gets a possible love interest and anarchy subplot; Anna (Joanne Froggatt) solves a mystery; The Dowager debates inheritance with her cousin Lady Maud Bagshaw (Imelda Staunton); Poor Edith (Laura Carmichael) gets some good and bad news (can't let her be too happy!); And Lady Mary, well, she gets a hand in most things, except her own relationship since her husband Henry (Matthew Goode) is absent for most of the film. The only

ones who don't have all that much going on are the Granthams themselves, Cora (Elizabeth McGovern) and Robert (Hugh Bonneville). That's not to say that there aren't good moments. There are, in fact, many, especially for those who miss the voyeurism of the fancy dress evenings with the family and their helpers. As in the series, the Dowager is always a standout and at 84, Maggie Smith is as fierce and fiery as ever in bringing her to life. And it is always lovely spending time in such lush surroundings. But the movie could have benefited on a little focus and not so much fan service, especially considering how good all of the ensemble actors are in these roles. Perhaps that's why Fellowes couldn't choose just one. Besides, if the camera movements and swelling music cues are any indication, there is only real star anyway: Downton Abbey itself. "Downton Abbey," a Focus Features release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "thematic elements, some suggestive material, and language."



# 'Letters from Hollywood' is a movie nerd's dream

Associated Press

"Letters from Hollywood: Inside the Private World of Classic American Moviemaking," published by Abrams, compiled and edited by Rocky Lang and Barbara Hall

Paul Newman passes on an offer to co-star with Barbra Streisand in "Funny Girl," saying he can't carry a tune or dance. Col. Tom Parker suggests a story line for a movie starring his client Elvis Presley in which the singer plays a young man raised by the gypsies who had kidnapped him as a baby — "with a good love angle involved."

A 17-year-old Tom Hanks, writing on notebook paper, pitches himself to be "discovered" by the director of "The Sting," George Roy Hill, who happens to be the uncle of some of his classmates.

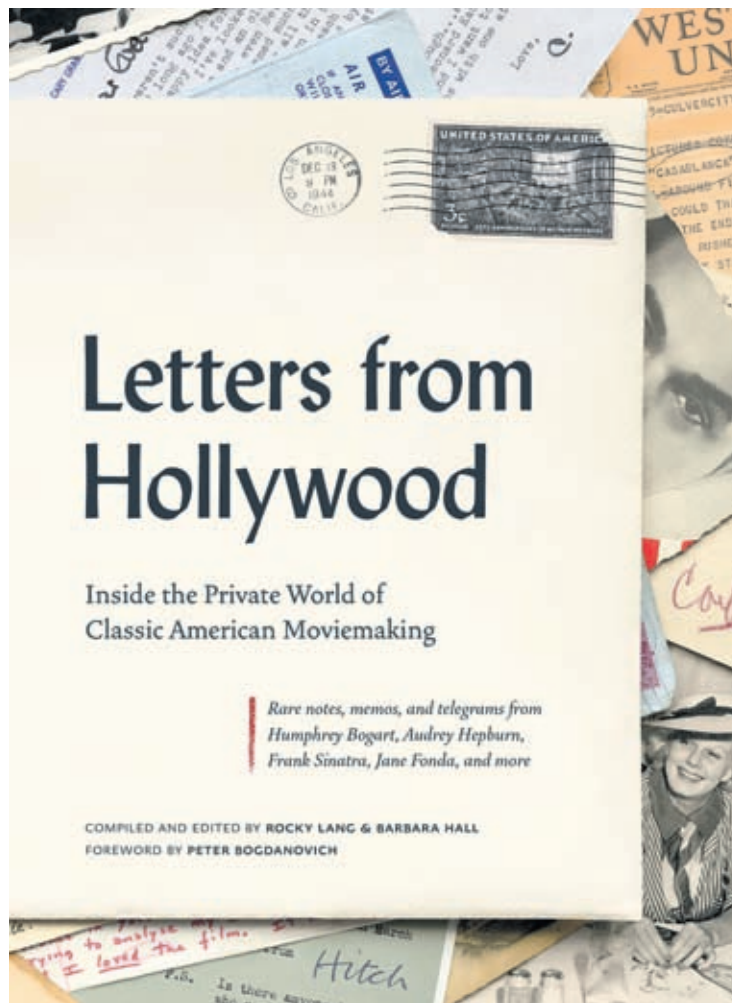
"My looks are not stunning," writes the future two-time Oscar winner. "I am not built like a Greek God, and I can't even grow a mus-

tache, but I figure if people will pay to see certain films ('The Exorcist,' for one) they will pay to see me."

These and other little joys are to be found in "Letters from Hollywood," a collection of movie-related correspondence from archives, libraries and private collections. Many of the missives deal with the nuts and bolts of filmmaking — screenwriting, casting, directing and more — along with personal reflections and an occasional catty comment.

Fans of classic films who know the difference between a Sturges and a Selznick or a Kazan and a Karloff will be intrigued or amused by private reflections such as:

—"Now I have reformed from all that foolishness of gabbing around. Its one of the lowest forms of art there is, is after dinner speaking, and besides I am an Actor now, they are on the verge of putting me in sex parts, (that's not six, that's SEX)." — Humorist turned movie star



This cover image released by Abrams shows "Letters from Hollywood: Inside the Private World of Classic American Moviemaking," compiled and edited by Rocky Lang and Barbara Hall.

Associated Press

Will Rogers, declining to address a bankers group, circa 1926.

—"Except as a scientific achievement, I am not sympathetic to this 'sound' business. I feel, as so many do, that it is a mechanical resource, that it is a retrogressive and temporary digression in so far as it affects the art of motion picture acting, — in short that it does not properly belong to my particular work." — Actor Ronald Colman, 1928. Nonetheless, he was a major star in the first three decades of talking pictures.

—"I've seen the picture, and it's foul. It doesn't leave Mr. Hearst with one redeeming feature. Nobody but Orson would have dared do a thing like that, and I personally hope it will never be shown on the screen." — Gossip columnist Hedda Hopper on "Citizen Kane," its inspiration, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst and director Orson Welles, 1941. □

# Rocker Ric Ocasek, frontman of The Cars, dead at 75

By TOM HAYS  
ANDREW DALTON  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ric Ocasek, The Cars frontman whose deadpan vocal delivery and lanky, sunglassed look defined a rock era with chart-topping hits like "Just What I Needed," was discovered dead Sunday afternoon in his Manhattan apartment.

The New York Police Department said that officers found the 75-year-old Ocasek at about 4 p.m. after responding to a 911 call. They said there were no signs of foul play and that the medical examiner was to determine a cause of death.

The death comes a year after The Cars were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, followed by an announcement by model Paulina Porizkova on social media that she and Ocasek had separated after 28 years of marriage. The pair first met while filming the music video for

"Drive," another Cars hit. Ocasek, who sang, played guitar and wrote most of the band's songs, and Benjamin Orr, who played bass and also sang, were ex-hippie buddies who formed The Cars in Boston in 1976. They were a decade older than many of their modern-rock compatriots but became one of the most essential American bands of the late 1970s and 1980s with their fusion of new wave, 1960s pop and 1970s glam.

Ocasek's minimalist, half-spoken deadpan vocals set made the band's sound, and his long, lanky appearance formed their lasting image.

The first three songs on their 1978 self-titled first album were all hit singles and remain widely known classics and oldies radio airplay: "Good Times Roll," "My Best Friend's Girl" and "Just What I Needed."

They had 10 other singles in the Billboard top 40, and of their six studio albums, four



In this April 14, 2018, file photo, Ric Ocasek, from the Cars, performs during the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction ceremony in Cleveland.

Associated Press

were in Billboard's top 10. The band's commercial peak came with 1984's "Heartbeat City," which featured the hit singles "You Might Think" and "Magic," sung by Ocasek, and the atypical ballad "Drive," sung by Orr.

They were always an MTV favorite, and the whimsi-

cal, partly animated video for "You Might Think" along with the mournful video for "Drive" brought them near-constant airplay on the channel in the mid-1980s. The band broke up in 1988, but their influence would be deeply felt in the 1990s and beyond. Kurt Cobain and Nirvana covered "My

Best Friend's Girl" at their last live show in 1994, and Ocasek produced albums for younger bands including Weezer, No Doubt and Bad Religion.

The Cars were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2018 after being nominated twice before. During the ceremony, Ocasek paid tribute to Orr, who died in 2000 of pancreatic cancer.

"It's quite strange to be here without him," Ocasek said. In announcing the separation last year, Porizkova said that their family is "a well-built car." But she says that "as a bicycle, my husband and I no longer pedal in unison." Ocasek had six sons, two from each of his three marriages.

He grew up in Baltimore, and his family moved to Cleveland when he was a teenager. After graduating high school he had stints at Antioch College and Bowling Green State University in the mid-1960s before dropping out to pursue music. □



# Surprise rescue of Jamaica coral reefs shows nature can heal

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**  
Associated Press  
**OCHO RIOS, Jamaica (AP)**

— Everton Simpson squints at the Caribbean from his motorboat, scanning the dazzling bands of color for hints of what lies beneath. Emerald green indicates sandy bottoms. Sapphire blue lies above seagrass meadows. And deep indigo marks coral reefs. That's where he's headed. He steers the boat to an unmarked spot he knows as the "coral nursery." "It's like a forest under the sea," he says, fastening his oxygen tank before tipping backward into the azure waters. He swims straight down 25 feet carrying a pair of metal shears, fishing line and a plastic crate.

On the ocean floor, small coral fragments dangle from suspended ropes, like socks hung on a laundry line. Simpson and other divers tend to this underwater nursery as gardeners mind a flower bed — slowly and painstakingly plucking off snails and fireworms that feast on immature coral. When each stub grows to about the size of a human hand, Simpson collects them in his crate to individually "transplant" onto a reef, a process akin to individually planting each blade of grass in a lawn. Even fast-growing coral species add just a few inches a year. And it's not possible to simply scatter seeds. A few hours later, at an underwater site called Dickie's Reef, Simpson uses fishing line to tie clusters of staghorn coral onto rocky outcroppings — a tempo-



A boat heads out to sea at dawn from the fishing village of White River, Jamaica, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

rary binding until the coral's limestone skeleton grows and fixes itself onto the rock. The goal is to jumpstart the natural growth of a coral reef. And so far, it's working. Almost everyone in Jamaica depends on the sea, including the energetic 68-year-old Simpson. Once a spear fisherman and later a scuba-diving instructor, he started working as a "coral gardener" two years ago — part of grassroots efforts to bring Jamaica's coral reefs back from the brink. Coral reefs are often called "rainforests of the sea" for the astonishing diversity of life they shelter. Just 2 percent of the ocean floor is filled with coral, but the branching structures sustain a quarter of all marine species. Clown fish,

parrotfish, groupers and snappers lay eggs and hide from predators in the reef's nooks and crannies, and their presence draws eels, sea snakes, octopuses and even sharks. In healthy reefs, jellyfish and sea turtles are regular visitors. With fish and coral, it's a codependent relationship — the fish rely on the reef to evade danger and lay eggs, and they also eat up the coral's rivals. After a series of natural and man-made disasters in the 1980s and 1990s, Jamaica lost 85 percent of its once-bountiful reefs. Meanwhile, fish catches declined to a sixth of what they had been in the 1950s, pushing families depending on seafood closer to poverty. Many scientists thought most of Jamaica's coral reef had been permanently replaced by seaweed, like jungle overtaking a ruined cathedral. But today, the corals and tropical fish are slowly reappearing, thanks in part to a series of careful interventions. The delicate labor of the coral gardener is only one part of restoring a reef. Convincing lifelong fishermen to curtail when and where they fish and controlling the surging waste dumped into the ocean are even trickier endeavors. Still, slowly, the comeback

effort is gaining momentum. "When you give nature a chance, she can repair herself," says Stuart Sandin, a marine biologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. "It's not too late." Sandin is studying the health of coral reefs around the world as part of a research project called the "100 Island Challenge." His starting assumption was that the most populated islands would have the most degraded habitats, but he found instead that humans can be either a blessing or a curse, depending on how they manage resources. When Jamaica's fish populations began to collapse two decades ago, something had to change. In the past 10 years, more

than a dozen grassroots-run coral nurseries and fish sanctuaries have sprung up, supported by small grants from foundations, local businesses such as hotels and scuba clinics, and the Jamaican government. At the White River Fish Sanctuary, which is only about 2 years old and where Simpson works, the clearest proof of early success is the return of tropical fish that inhabit the reefs — as well as hungry pelicans, skimming the surface of the water to feed on them. The solution was to create a protected area for immature fish to reach reproductive age before they are caught. Most of the more established fishermen, who own boats and set out lines and wire cages, have come to accept the no-fishing zone. But some younger men still hunt with lightweight spearguns, swimming out to sea and firing at close-range. These men — some of them poor and with few options — are the most likely trespassers. Once it became clear that a no-fishing zone actually helped nearby fish populations rebound, however, it became easier to build support. The number of fish in the Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary has doubled between 2011 and 2017, according to Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency. And that boosts catches in surrounding areas. Oracabessa was the first of the grassroots-led efforts to revive Jamaica's coral reefs. □



Diver Lenford DaCosta cleans up lines of staghorn coral at a nursery inside the Oracabessa Fish Sanctuary Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in Oracabessa, Jamaica.

Associated Press



Diver Everton Simpson plants staghorn harvested from a coral nursery inside the the White River Fish Sanctuary Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Associated Press